

Key seats poll gives Tories majority of 92

Tactical voting could boost Alliance hopes

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Conservative Government would be re-elected by an overall majority of 92 seats if an election were held now, according to an exclusive *Times/MORI* opinion poll. But the advantage which the Conservatives had enjoyed in marginal seats is diminishing.

The poll, taken last week in 73 key marginal constituencies, confirms a continuing strong surge to the SDP/Liberal Alliance at Labour's expense, with the Alliance advancing more in marginal seats than elsewhere.

The poll discloses a greater awareness of the potential of tactical voting and indicates that the Alliance could gain extensively during an election if Labour's vote threatened to collapse. More than 50 per cent of Labour supporters would find the prospect of an Alliance Government very or fairly acceptable.

The calling of an early election will be a gamble whenever Mrs Margaret Thatcher chooses to go to the country.

Sharp fluctuations in support for the opposition parties in this and other recent surveys have led some key Conservative advisers to urge the Government to wait for the results of the local government elections on May 7 for voting evidence to back that from the opinion polls before taking any decisions. But it can be argued that a better opportunity for Mrs Thatcher

is unlikely, given the continuing advance by the SDP/Liberal Alliance.

The *Times/MORI* poll measured party support in the marginal seats where Labour is the main challenger to the Government. Conservatives 37 per cent, Labour 31 per cent and SDP/Liberal Alliance 30 per cent. That compares a February poll of Conservatives 40 per cent, Labour 36 per cent and Alliance 22 per cent. General election figures in the same

seats were Conservative 42 per cent, Labour 33 per cent and Alliance 23 per cent.

In those seats, the Conservatives are down 3 per cent compared with February, Labour is down 5 per cent and the Alliance is up 8 per cent. Compared with the last election the Conservatives are down 5 per cent, Labour down 2 per cent and the Alliance is up 7 per cent.

The figures indicate a swing to Labour of only 1.5 per cent since the general election, a point down on February.

In the Conservative/Alliance marginals, where a Liberal or SDP candidate ran second last time, the poll figures were Conservatives 38 per cent, Alliance 37 per cent and Labour 22 per cent. In those seats the change since February leaves Labour down 8 points, the Alliance up 8 points and the Conservatives

with the same level of support. Compared with the general election the Conservatives are down 5 points, Labour is up four points and the Alliance vote has remained the same.

The intriguing thing about the latest poll in the marginal seats is that whereas the February poll showed the Conservatives doing better in the marginals than in the country at large, that advantage has virtually disappeared.

If a general election were held tomorrow and were to reproduce the figures in the poll of key marginals the Conservatives would be re-elected with a majority of 92 seats. The parties' standings would be Conservatives 371, Labour 224, Alliance 32 and Others 23.

With the pressures for an early election building, the figures will be a blow to Mr Neil Kinnock and the Labour Party. The Alliance has been gaining at Labour's expense in almost all the categories Labour regards as its greatest strength — among men, young voters and trades unionists. In tactical voting terms, Labour's vote has dropped more where the Alliance ran second last time than in other seats.

There will, however, also be disappointment for Mrs Thatcher. Fieldwork for the *MORI* poll was conducted while she was enjoying success in the Soviet Union. But while voters' satisfaction level with the Prime Minister has risen sharply the Conservative vote has merely remained stable. That suggests that the two

Continued on page 20, col 1



President Herzog of Israel unveils a memorial stone yesterday at the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where thousands of Jews were killed, during his journey of reconciliation.

Herzog returns to Belsen

From Richard Owen, Bergen-Belsen

President Herzog of Israel, yesterday began a controversial week-long visit to West Germany by going to the former Nazi concentration camp at Belsen in the north of the country with Herr Richard von Weizsäcker, the West German President.

It is the first trip to West Germany by an Israeli president and is seen as a step in the long reconciliation process between the two nations.

In a moving remembrance ceremony President Herzog — who last saw the camp as a British army officer during the

liberation in 1945 — said Belsen, where 50,000 Jews died, was a symbol of the depths to which the human soul could sink.

It was also a call "for us to fulfil with our very being the antithesis of evil", Mr Herzog

Hatred rejected

said. But he stressed that Israel could neither forgive nor forget the Nazi massacres, and it was still too early for "normalization".

The visit has aroused controversy in Israel, with some politicians attacking Mr Herzog for appearing to forgive the Germans for the Holocaust. The West German press yesterday called for reconciliation between German and Jew, with the daily *Bild* using the single word *Shalom* as its editorial headline and observing that Mr Herzog's mission was to help find the way to a better future from a gruesome past.

Last night President Herzog discussed the current Middle East situation with President Weizsäcker over dinner.

Ferry steward 'told officer of flood threat'

By Staff Reporters

A crew member of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* said last night he had warned a senior officer that water was surging through the vessel two and a half minutes before it capsized, with the loss of up to 200 lives.

The claim was made by Mr John Butler, a steward, as Supt Jose van den Bussche, the police chief investigating the disaster, called for criminal charges to be brought against the captain and two senior officers.

The allegations and calls for criminal charges came on the eve of the operation to right the stricken vehicle and passenger ferry, which capsized just outside Zeebrugge harbour four weeks ago.

Supt van den Bussche has sent a report to Mr Justice Sheen, who is in charge of the British inquiry, which is set to open on April 27.

Mr van den Bussche said yesterday: "I believe it would be morally wrong if the captain, the chief mate and the man who was told to close the doors are not charged."

He said he had been concerned for some time that ferries leaving Zeebrugge had been setting off when, in fact, they should have been secured.

He claimed the *Herald* was not seaworthy on the night of the disaster because of "a sum of circumstances".

He added that ballast should have been dumped from the Townsend Thoresen ferry before it set off.

His report recommends that charges be brought against Captain David Lewry, chief mate Leslie Sable and the officer responsible for closing the bow door.

But whatever happened, he believed that the people who were ultimately found responsible for the disaster would be punished.

"They will have to live with this nightmare for the rest of their lives," he said.

Mr Butler, a steward who served tea to ferry drivers, said he had alerted a senior officer minutes before the ferry began to list.

He said: "I only made one telephone call. I was working below the car decks servicing the cabins for the lorry drivers when I heard running water."

"About 40 cabins had been booked and I was waiting to show the drivers to their beds. I was in the linen locker, just at the foot of the stairs."

Speaking from his home in Dover, Mr Butler said: "I heard this noise and looked out. Water was cascading down the stairs. It was a massive stream, jumping from stair to stair. Immediately, I telephoned the information office and spoke to the assistant purser."

He said he heard senior officer Stephen Homewood call to say: "It's all right John, do not worry about it. I will get on to it straight away."

And he heard Mr Homewood call over the ship's tannoy system for a carpenter.

Mr Butler added: "As I put the telephone down I looked at my feet. The whole place was flooded with water."

"Thinking it was a burst pipe I ran up the first flight of stairs. As I reached the top of the stairs I felt the ship beginning to list. It went over to about 25 degrees and then stayed still for about five seconds."

"I still thought nothing of it and was heading upstairs to find something to clean up with when the ship went over completely. The lights went out, the engine stopped and it was completely quiet."

"Suddenly, someone opened a door above me and two other members of the crew pulled me out. I was one of the first out and spent the next few hours helping passengers to safety."

Mr van den Bussche, whose report already runs to more than 2,000 pages, is still collecting evidence to put before the London inquiry.

He has also taken a statement from chief mate Leslie Sable. Mr Sable had allegedly admitted asking a crew member to close the ferry doors after the assistant boatswain, who normally took charge of that matter, had reported sick.

INSIDE Nurses are 'deserting in droves'

The National Health Service is in danger of breaking down because of increased pressure on overworked, underpaid nurses who are deserting in droves, the Royal College of Nursing president says Page 3

US contender

Mr Jack Kemp, a conservative in the Reagan mould, has entered the race for the Republican presidential nomination. Page 9

IN PART Tunnel delay

Eurotunnel, the channel tunnel consortium, has postponed its international public share sale until the autumn and will ask existing shareholders for up to £100 million in bridging finance. Page 21

Higgins ban

Alex Higgins, the snooker player, was fined £12,000 and banned from five tournaments for offences committed at the Tannets UK Open in November. Page 44

Portfolio

● Yesterday's £8,000 daily prize in *The Times* Portfolio competition — double the usual amount — was shared by two readers. Details, page 3.
● There is £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list, 25.

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Thatcher attempts to quell general election date fever

By Philip Webster and Sheila Gynn

The Prime Minister yesterday attempted to calm the latest bout of election fever by announcing that the Conservative Party's surge to a comfortable lead in the polls and the weekend prediction of Dr David Owen that she would go to the country on May 7.

But she failed to stop the growing expectation among MPs that she will go to the country in June.

As the Labour Party attacked the Government in the Commons for creating divisions in society, Mrs Thatcher's advisers made plain on her behalf that she still regarded the autumn as the natural time for the next general election.

But while it was stressed that she had never favoured May 7, it was accepted that she might find the temptation of June irresistible if the polls continued to show the Conser-

vatives well in front and the result government elections result on May 7 proved satisfactory.

The Prime Minister had her usual weekly meeting with the Government's key business managers at Downing Street yesterday, and election timing was high on the agenda.

Conservative MPs returning from their constituencies yesterday were accepting that June had again become the most likely date.

If she does choose June the Scottish Tory conference in Perth in mid-May would almost certainly be used as the launching pad for an election on June 11 or June 18.

Meanwhile Dr Owen was having to admit that he was wrong in forecasting May 7, although he was cheerfully unrepentant about fuelling renewed election speculation.

In the Commons debate called by Labour on the

inequalities in society, Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, yesterday accused the Tories of creating a divided Britain "as the direct result, indeed the intentional outcome, of government policy".

Parliament, page 4



Jaguar sales up as Austin Rover slips

By Daniel Ward Motor Industry Correspondent

Sales of Jaguar cars soared by 58 per cent in March confirming the success of the new XJ6 model, for which would-be owners are now waiting up to nine months to take delivery.

So far this year Jaguar has sold 3,261 cars, 45 per cent more than for the first quarter of 1986. Over half of Jaguar's production goes to America where demand has in fact been lower in anticipation of the arrival of the latest XJ6 there next month.

Austin Rover's market share, however, is down in spite of the fact that new car sales as a whole are higher than expected for the first quarter of 1987. Once again it is Ford which has increased its market share.

New car registrations exceeded industry forecasts, rising by 8.2 per cent in March and helping to push new car sales past the 500,000 mark for the first quarter — up 5.7 per cent on the same three months of 1986.

The car makers had predicted a slight drop in demand for new cars this year after the record 1.88 million registrations in 1986.

Ford, took advantage of the strong demand, lifting sales by 15,000 to 145,873 and raising its market share for the first three months of 1987 from 26.2 to 27.67 per cent.

For the moment heavy discounting of new cars by dealers has abated, but Austin Rover and Vauxhall joined Ford in offering low cost finance on lower cost models.

However this did not stop Austin Rover's market share from falling to 15.4 per cent

last month, keeping it ahead of Vauxhall whose share slipped to a dismal 13.4 per cent. Both companies had only two cars in the Top Ten sellers which was led by the Escort and Fiesta models from Ford.

It is too early to see the facelifted Montego come to Austin Rover's aid and the company is now faced with a further decline in Maestro sales. Vauxhall is experiencing a rather more worrying slip in demand for the Belmont model, less than a year after its launch.

Ford and Vauxhall have promised to import fewer cars from Continental plants this year and build more cars in Britain. For the first quarter Ford pushed up sales of UK models by 18,000 to 106,259 and reduced imports by 7 per cent (3000 cars). Vauxhall built 13,285 more British cars and cut imports by 41 per cent to 23,893.

Vauxhall's Luton plant will work eight hours overtime a week to build extra Cavaliers rather than import them from the Continent, which has become more expensive due to the strengthening of the Deutschmark.

Japanese imports fell in March and for the first quarter Japanese cars accounted for 7.7 per cent of the market, down from 9.0 per cent for the same period in 1986. Overall imports are down from 54.6 per cent to 49.4 per cent for the first three months of 1987.

In March the recently merged Leyland-DAF concern lost its leadership of the UK heavy truck market to Iveco-Ford.

Tory poll showing boosts markets

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Government's improved showing in the opinion polls produced a wave of optimism in the City yesterday. Sterling, shares and government stocks all rose strongly.

The *MORI* poll, based on marginal seats, is likely to give the markets a further boost.

Dealers said the opinion polls suggesting a strong Conservative lead had removed many market jitters over a hung Parliament. This, together with an easing of worries over a possible trade war with Japan and record

highs on Wall Street, put the market in an optimistic mood.

Shares opened the new account and new financial year in fine form. The FT 30 share index gained 19.6 points to close at 1,566.0, while the FT-SE 100 index rose 24.5 points to 1,989.6.

The pound opened higher, reaching \$1.6250 at one stage before closing with a net 40 point gain on the day at \$1.6185. It rose nearly three pence against the mark, closing at DM2.9573, and the

sterling index was up 0.5 to 72.4.

The pound would have moved still higher, dealers said, if not for fears of Bank of England intervention. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, flies to Washington today for the spring IMF meetings where the finance ministers of leading economies are expected to endorse their February agreement in Paris to stabilize currencies around current levels.

Stock market report, page 22

Queen Mother 'discovered nieces were alive'

By Tony Dawe

Sir Brian Rix, the general secretary of Mencap, said last night that the Queen Mother had discovered five years ago that two nieces she thought were dead were living in a mental hospital, and "had been very supportive ever since".

Miss Katherine Bowes-Lyon, the Queen's cousin, has been living in a mental hospital for 46 years but was reported to have died 26 years ago. Members of her family have now confirmed that her mother, Mrs Fencilla Bowes-Lyon, reported the death in 1962, together with that of her sister, Nerissa, who was also mentally ill and died only last year. But they said the report was caused by "vagueness" of Mrs Bowes-Lyon, and was not a cover-up.

Friends of the family said, however, that the life-long mental problems of the two girls had always embarrassed the family, who had not announced their births, and had tried to keep them hidden away before sending both of them to the Royal Earlswood Hospital, near Redhill in Surrey in 1941.

Mrs Bowes-Lyon was a sister-in-law of the Queen Mother, who is patron of Mencap, the society for the mentally handicapped. A spokesman for the Queen Mother declined to comment on the case, and said it was a matter for the Bowes-Lyon family. A spokesman for the Queen said she was aware of the reports, but he had "no information" about the case. Nerissa and Katherine Bowes-Lyon were the third and fifth daughters

of Mr John Herbert Bowes-Lyon and his wife, Fencilla.

The first daughter survived less than a year, but two others lived fairly long and healthy lives. Nerissa and Katherine, however, suffered mental disorders from birth and were kept hidden from sight at the family home in Scotland.

Their father died in 1930, and they lived at home until the height of the Second World War, when they were committed to the Royal Earlswood Hospital.

In 1963, when both were still alive, Burke's *Peerage* reported their deaths: Nerissa in 1940 and Katherine in 1961. In a joint statement yesterday from the family and Burke's *Peerage* it was explained that the deaths had been reported because

of the "vagueness" of the girls' mother.

"She often did not fill out forms completely which Burke's *Peerage* sent her," Lady Elizabeth Anson, her granddaughter, said. She said members of the family had visited the two women at the hospital, and that a proper gravestone would now be provided for Nerissa, whose grave in Redhill cemetery is marked only with a wooden cross and plastic name tag.

The Royal Earlswood confirmed yesterday that Katherine was still following the normal daily routine of the 400 patients at the hospital. She is living in a ward with six other people of her age and is not restricted in any way.

Royal tragedy
Unspoken fear
page 3
page 14

Beirut sniper kills one as food reaches camp

Beirut (AP) — A Palestinian man was killed by sniper fire as he unloaded food supplies at the hunger-ridden Chatila refugee camp yesterday, hours after a truce was declared in the 23-month-old war between guerrillas and Shia Muslim militants.

Five trucks carrying 40 tons of rice, oil, sugar, tea, flour, blankets and clothes were escorted into the camp by Syrian military observers, Kuwaiti and Arab League of-

ficials. Three hours later the vehicles came out, one clearly stained with blood. Relief workers said a Palestinian man was shot dead near it.

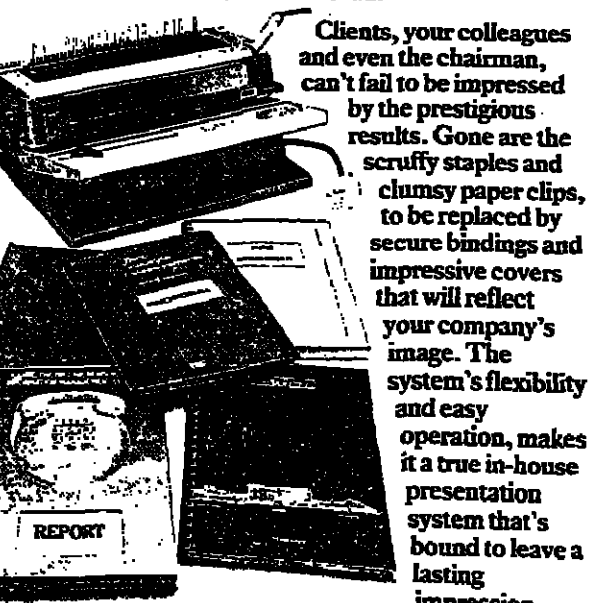
Heavy sniping engulfed Chatila and the suburban Bourj al-Barajneh refugee camp at mid-morning.

But Syrian observers convened another meeting between rival officials to reinstate the truce.

Photograph, page 9

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NEWS SUMMARY

Jobshare scheme for part-timers

The Government yesterday relaunched its job-sharing scheme under a new name and with increased grants to employers. Jobshare aims to create 1,000 jobs in its first year with employers getting £1,000 for each part-time job.

Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said at the national launch in Manchester that the former job-splitting scheme had not been a success.

Jobshare could benefit those who wanted to work but could not commit themselves full time.

It will work by dividing an existing full-time job, creating two new part-time jobs, or creating a part-time job by combining the regular overtime hours of full-time jobs.

Plea to Brady

New attempts will be made to persuade Ian Brady, the moors murderer, to confess to two further killings in which he has already been implicated by Myra Hindley.

Det Chief Supt Peter Topping, head of Greater Manchester CID, who is leading the moorland search for the bodies of Keith Bennett, aged 12, and Pauline Reade, aged 16, said yesterday he was available at any time to talk to Brady, who on three occasions has refused to discuss the moors murders with police.

Watching for crime

The number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in England and Wales has trebled to more than 25,000 in the past year, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

He said there was increased evidence that Neighbourhood Watch was helping to cut burglaries and serious crime.

Opening the International Fire and Security Exhibition and Conference in London, Mr Hurd said the Home Office was nearly doubling its public budget for crime prevention to £4.5 million this year.

TV worker killed

An electrician working on a new BBC television drama series was killed by a wind machine yesterday.

The accident happened on Cora, where the BBC is filming a 10-part series based on Gerald Durrell's book, *My Family and Other Animals*.

The electrician, Mr Yannis Asterinos, from Athens, was testing the machine after it was repaired. It fell forward and the propeller hit Mr Asterinos, killing him instantly.

The cast and crew were on location on a different part of the Greek island and did not see the accident.

Thatcher to retain key members of her Cabinet

By Richard Evans
Political Correspondent

The key members of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet are expected to remain in their existing jobs should the Conservatives win the next general election.

According to the Prime Minister's closest aides, Mr Nigel Lawson will stay in charge at the Treasury, Mr Douglas Hurd will continue as Home Secretary, Mr Kenneth Baker will remain as Secretary of State for Education, while Mr Nicholas Ridley is expected to carry on as

Secretary of State for the Environment.

And contrary to widespread speculation, the Premier is expected by colleagues to try to persuade Lord Whitelaw, the loyal warhorse of the Thatcherite years, to postpone his retirement from politics by continuing as leader of the House of Lords for at least a year into her third term.

A need for continuity lies behind the status quo approach in the upper echelons of Mrs Thatcher's Government. Her first administration

concentrated on taming the trade unions, the present Government has aimed to get the economy working and the next Parliament will be devoted to social issues — with education and the inner cities as the top priorities.

It is argued, therefore, that it is crucial not to risk widespread changes in the departments involved in such policy areas and, instead, to retain continuity.

The "same again" theory fits neatly with Mrs Thatcher's feelings of strong loyalty to ministers, but it will not

stretch to her entire administration.

Favourites for the chop are Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture and Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons who, according to one source, "has never been forgiven" for his controversial television remarks about the need for a "balanced ticket" leadership of the Conservative Party. Another is Mr Peter Walker, the lone "wet" in the Cabinet.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, now in his 80th year, is expected to finally

retire as Lord Chancellor but his successor is not obvious.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary and a QC, is seen as an ideal replacement by some Cabinet colleagues but he is known to want to remain at the Foreign Office — and is also harbours hopes of staying in the running for the premiership.

That would leave a vacancy for Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, who right wing Conservative MPs once hoped would become Home Secretary. With Mr Nicholas Edwards.

Secretary of State for Wales, having already announced he will not stand at the next election as well as dismissing speculation that he could carry on the job from the House of Lords, the Prime Minister will have to find a new minister to take over responsibility for the principality.

Mr Michael Howard, the young and able Consumer Affairs Minister who has been in the spotlight whilst dealing with City fraud and the current trade row with Japan, is favourite to get the job.

Police check rewards for anonymous information

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is studying a United States reward system which allows informants to remain anonymous from the police and receive their money from a special fund financed by public donations.

The system, called Crime Stoppers in the US, has been operating successfully in the Great Yarmouth area of Norfolk for more than two years. The Norfolk police have used the scheme to combat burglaries, but if the Yard adopted the idea it would probably be applied to violent crimes including rape and murder.

Unlike current systems, the reward money is paid on arrest or charge rather than on conviction. The police say the system has safeguards. Its value is that it reaches people who can identify culprits but who do not want to talk openly to the police.

The system envisages a partnership between local police, business and the media. A reward fund administered by an independent civilian board is set up with the help of contributions from big companies.

Would-be informants can telephone the police, who give them a secret identification number. If the information leads to a successful arrest the informant, still identified only by the secret number, receives a reward from two members of the reward board.

Under the reward system at present run by the police using a small fund, the identity of informants must be known. The Yard use of rewards has been tightened in recent years because of controversy

surrounding rewards paid out by insurance companies on police recommendations, which can be as high as 10 per cent of a loss.

More than 500 schemes operate in the US and Canada, where the police deliberately use small rewards of \$500 to \$1,000 to reduce the temptation for corruption. Up to 40 per cent are not claimed. A similar policy would be adopted in London.

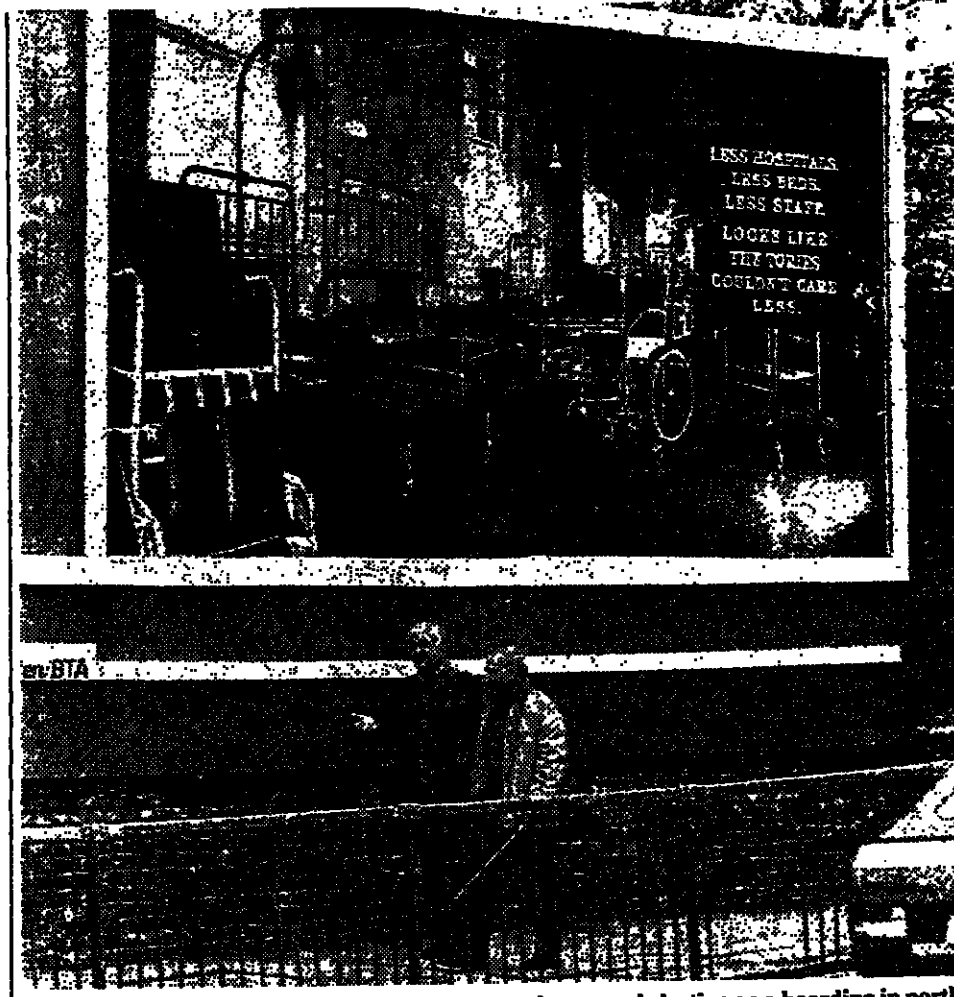
Crime Stoppers could not be used to obtain search or arrest warrants because the courts would not accept anonymous sources of information. If the London police adopted the system, it would be applied to big crimes and linked to television, radio and press publicity.

The system would be an extension of the television programmes, *Police Five* and *Crimewatch*, which are broadcast in the London area. These programmes are used by the police to find witnesses rather than obtain information.

The telephone number for informants would be publicized and an officer would be on duty to take calls.

Two senior detectives studied the Crime Stoppers system in the US and made a presentation recently to the weekly meeting of the Yard's policy committee. The officers were instructed to continue their investigation for another three months, looking at the use of the media.

In Great Yarmouth, the Crime Stoppers scheme has resulted in 64 people being charged and 171 crimes being solved. About £2,500 has been paid to 23 informants.



The Labour Party's opening salvo in the run up to the general election on a hoarding in north London, marking yesterday's launch of a poster campaign aimed at 130 marginal seats. Attention is being focused on the health service and unemployment and prime poster sites have been booked for the two weeks (Photograph: Alan Weller). Diary, page 14.

Civil Service dispute

DHSS hit as 10,000 strike.

By Ian Smith

Jobcentres, unemployment benefit offices and other branches of the DHSS were disrupted yesterday as 10,000 Civil Servants in Greater Manchester refused to cross picket lines on the first day of the strike by their two main unions.

Mr Barry Woodburn, north-west convener for the Civil and Public Services Association, said current claimants would receive their benefits in spite of the strike, although no new claimants would be able to register.

Mr Woodburn pointed out that the skeleton staff left on duty would be totally incapable of dealing with the workload which was too great even when the staff was working at full capacity. "That is one of the reasons for our actions. We've always been averse to disruption because of the effect on the public, but it is naive to think we are going to get anything out of the Government any other way", he said. Staff manning

counters were often paying more out in benefits to claimants than they earned themselves, he added.

Mr Leslie Christie, general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, addressing a rally of more than 400 of his members in London yesterday said: "Even the mildest people are now saying enough is enough. We have the drive, energy and determination to win."

Throughout the country the Civil Servants have banned overtime and withdrawn goodwill. Custom officials dealing with exports have started an all-out strike.

According to Mr Christie, 60 non-union civil service workers joined the Civil and Public Servants' Association and SCPS in Manchester, rather than walk through a picket line.

The unions are under no illusions that the strike will bring hardship and suffering to many people, but they believe the threat of thousands

of people on the streets without benefits should be enough to move the Government.

According to a CPSA official, the new plan of strike action shows "that to beat the Government you have got to be prepared to fight dirty".

However, the CPSA executive was attacked by some of the speakers from the floor at the London rally for not taking a hard enough line against the Government.

As Civil Servants demanding better pay picketed outside, Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, laid another brick on the Government's election defences yesterday by forecasting a continuing fall in unemployment figures (Tim Jones writes).

Lord Young, speaking after an Action for Jobs presentation to 500 employers at Newport, Gwent, said job creation measures were on target to bring unemployment below three million by the end of the year.

Helicopter project rejected by Britain

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

Future collaborative projects with Britain's Nato partners in Europe could be at risk after the expected announcement this week that the Government is to withdraw from a European defence programme to build a military helicopter for the late 1990s.

Sir David Perry, chief of defence equipment (collaboration), yesterday broke the news of Britain's withdrawal from the so-called NH90 project to the other European national armaments directors in West Germany.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, who is due to announce new orders for helicopters this week after a comprehensive review of the Armed Forces' requirements during the next 25 years, will also formally announce the NH90 decision.

Britain has been a member of a five-nation collaborative project in Europe studying the potential of a medium-size navy and army helicopter, the NH90 (Nato Helicopter for the 90s).

Similar helicopter programmes in the past have always been bilateral, like the Anglo-French Gazelle, Puma and Lynx programmes. So the memorandum of understanding signed between Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and The Netherlands, in September 1985, was viewed as a breakthrough in European collaboration.

Yesterday Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence, who played a vital role in trying to rationalize European helicopter development, said that he had predicted that the Government would scrap the NH90 project if the American company Sikorsky took over Westland. During the Westland affair, which led to Mr Heseltine's resignation from the Government, he argued strongly for a British/European consortium to bail out the company and for a comprehensive European collaborative helicopter programme. The NH90 will be a main competitor for Sikorsky's Black Hawk helicopter, which is now being built by Westland.

European diplomatic sources said yesterday there would be great disappointment over Britain's decision to withdraw from NH90. But the project would continue.

Moves to end wards of court

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Commission today proposes the abolition of the power to make a child a ward of court as part of its review of child care law.

Wardship can be used in important ways, it says. A parent may make a child a ward to prevent the other from "kidnapping" the child and taking him or her abroad, or simply to settle a dispute between them.

Local authorities can also use wardship to remove children from their parents, and other people can use it to seek day-to-day care of a child.

But wardship — highlighted in the current case before the House of Lords over the sterilization of a mentally handicapped girl — may be out of date, unfair, expensive and very slow, the commission says.

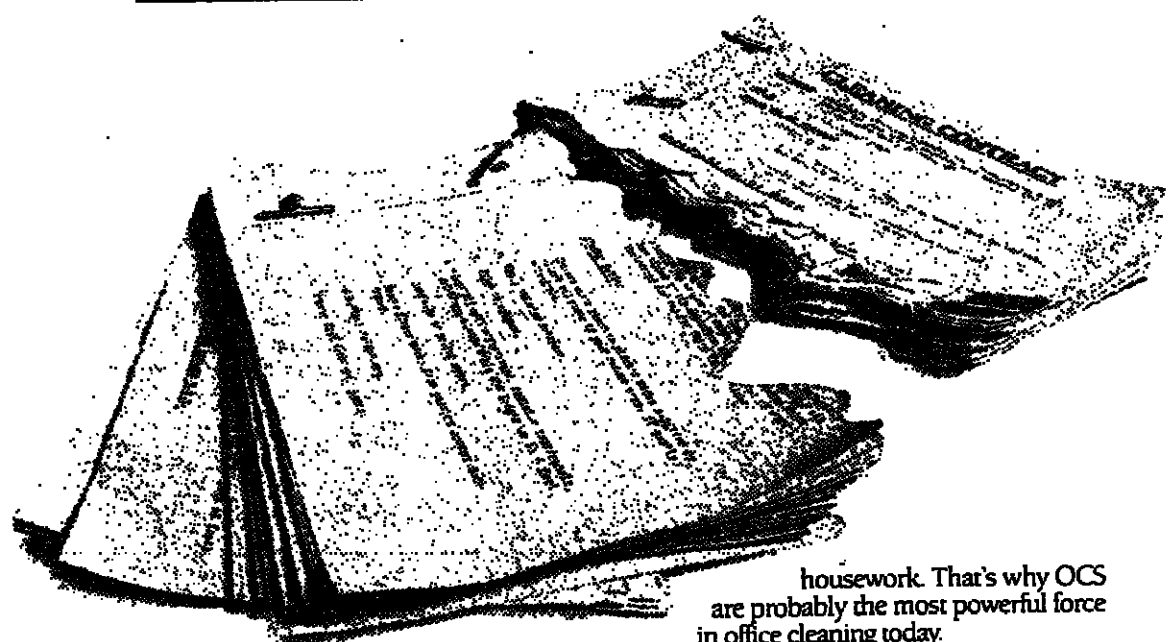
It can have a "sledgehammer effect", with the court assuming control over every aspect of the child's life when this is not necessary.

Wardship is largely a matter for the High Court, which means that in practice it is available only to those who can afford it. But, since most judicial decisions affecting children and their families are made by county courts or magistrates' courts, "should wardship remain so exclusive", the commission asks.

The commission asks whether the time has come to abolish wardship, and to incorporate its best features in a statutory code on the care and custody of children.

Law Commission: Working paper 101, Family Law: review of child law — Wards of Court (Stationery Office, £3).

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Health service 'near to crisis' as pressure on nurses increases

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The National Health Service is in danger of breaking down because of increased pressure on overworked nurses, the new president of the Royal College of Nursing said yesterday.

Miss Maude Storey, speaking at the opening of the RCN conference in Glasgow, said there was a price for the success the NHS has had in treating more in-patients and day patients, and too much of that price was paid by nurses.

The pressure was increased by the shortage of nurses throughout Britain, she said. Delegates to the conference later booed and slow-hand-clapped Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State at the Scottish Office.

He said that spending on the NHS had doubled since 1979 and the number of qualified nurses had increased by 25 per cent since 1979.

There were hoots of derision when he said he could be proud of the Government's record on health. And the minister's speech was almost drowned out by foot-stamping when he told delegates: "We have introduced a sound management structure to the NHS. This is a feature which I believe was sadly lacking. I think it makes the service more responsive to change."

Miss Storey's warning came after a call by Mr Trevor Clay, RCN general secretary, for a pay rise for all nurses of £1,000 a year, representing an average 17 per cent increase.

The rise, which would cost more than £500 million, was less than the recent teachers pay award, he said. "Teachers had a settlement costing the taxpayer £600 million imposed upon them."

Miss Storey said yesterday that in Glasgow, there were 700 vacancies and in London several health districts had shortages of almost 25 per cent of trained staff.

She said 30,000 trained nurses were leaving the NHS each year, representing 10 per cent of the workforce, and a further 6,000 student and pupil nurses were either leaving or failing to complete their studies.

The figures were based on surveys by the management consultants, Price Waterhouse, and the Institute of Manpower Studies.

"The Government cannot stand by and let this massive waste of expensive trained talent leave the service, many in despair and frustration, never to return. There are potentially 100,000 nurses on the register who are not practising, but with support might return", she said.

She called for more flexible working, more part-time opportunities and more facilities to encourage the thousands of nurses who were not working.

Pay was crucial. The starting salary for a fully trained staff nurse was £6,475 and after five years it would have risen to only £7,750.

Miss Storey said that the Government and the Pay Review Body, due to report soon, must find the courage and the sort of money found for teachers if nursing was to compete for a share of the best young people. Failure to do so would be disastrous for nursing and the NHS.

"If changes are not brought forward quickly I fear the service will crack. There are signs in some part of the country that this is a current possibility."

The Royal College of Nursing emphasized that regions throughout the country were reporting serious shortfalls in nursing staff.

Trent region which gains from the Government's RAWP policy, had planned to increase its staffing levels from 20,588 in March last year to 22,521 in March 1987. Last December it was still facing a 1,084 shortfall because of high turnover and an inability to recruit more nurses.



The British Heart Foundation's camera team demonstrating the vanishing art of skipping yesterday.

Fear of police may hit drive on Aids

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The Government and the police must adopt a "softly softly" approach towards drug addicts to prevent the further spread of Aids among heroin abusers, a doctor said yesterday.

Government policies in recent years had amounted to a declaration of war against addicts and had branded them as criminals, alienated from society, Dr Roy Robertson said.

Addicts are to be the main target of the next phase of the publicity campaign on Aids. Pilot schemes to give intravenous drug abusers clean needles in exchange for used ones are being introduced in about a dozen British cities.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, has emphasized that reaching drug abusers has become a priority because of the risks of Aids infection being spread from them into the general population.

But Dr Robertson, a general practitioner in Edinburgh, where Aids infection among addicts is more than 50 per cent, said that many addicts would be unwilling to come forward because of fears of police action.

About 1,000 people in the Edinburgh area are believed to be infected, including about 30 babies born to addicted mothers. Estimates of the number of heroin addicts in Britain range from about 35,000 to 100,000.

In his book, *Heroin, Aids and Society*, published yesterday, Dr Robertson said: "The attitude of society towards certain types of drug use has led to expensive drug enforcement operations."

"Increase in control of the drugs problem is unlikely to make things better and may even make the spread of the Aids virus worse. Painful as it may be, a lessening of some controls is necessary." *Heroin, Aids and Society* (Hodder and Stoughton: £4.95).

Tragic sisters have haunted family for whole generation



Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, later the Queen Mother, pictured as a little girl to the right of her mother, Lady Strathmore. The Queen Mother's brother, John, stands second from left.

By Tony Dawe

The full tragic family history of John Herbert Bowes Lyon, brother of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, emerged yesterday when it was confirmed that two of his daughters were committed to a mental hospital in their youth.

The youngest, Katherine Bowes Lyon, a cousin of the Queen, still lives in the state-run Royal Earlswood Hospital, near Redhill, Surrey, where she was sent in 1941, at the age of 15.

Her sister, Nerissa, died last year, aged 67, after spending 45 years in the same hospital.

She is buried in Redhill cemetery, in a grave marked only by a wooden cross and a plastic name tag.

The simple grave is a symbol of how the family tried to forget the misfortune which had befallen them.

The girl's mother, Fenella Bowes Lyon, tried to keep the sisters hidden at home. They appeared perfectly normal physically, but had been mentally handicapped since birth.

She tried to ensure their life was as comfortable as possible, but finally, in 1941, with her husband dead and the second World War at its height, she gave up the struggle and sent them to the Royal Earlswood.

Twenty years later, when Fenella Bowes Lyon was in her seventies, she further obscured the sad story of the two daughters, by informing Burke's Peerage that both had died: Nerissa in 1940 and Katherine in 1961.

Last night, the family said in a statement that the death

notices which appeared in Burke's Peerage were not "a cover-up" of the girls' mental illness but a result of their mother's "vagueness".

Fenella Bowes Lyon's granddaughter, Lady Elizabeth Anson, said yesterday that she was "a very vague person".

She added: "She often did not fill out forms completely that Burke's Peerage had sent her."

But family friends are convinced that she was trying to avoid any "skeletons" being left in the family cupboard.

● Simple grave is a symbol of how the family tried to forget their misfortune ●

when she died. Her death was in September 1966.

Fenella Bowes Lyon's family history had been littered with tragedies. Immediately after her marriage to the Queen's Mother's brother in September 1914, he went to war serving as a lieutenant with the 5th Battalion, The Black Watch. Within months, he was wounded.

Back home in Scotland, he and his wife began a family. He longed for a son and heir but Fenella produced five daughters.

The first, Patricia, survived less than a year. The second, Anne, lived until she was 62 and had an unhappy marriage to Lord Anson until she divorced him in 1948. She married Prince Georg of Denmark.

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Lucky surprise for readers

Two readers share the £8,000 Portfolio Gold Prize and both were too surprised by their wins to decide what to do with their windfalls.

Mrs Mary Cooper, of Ormond Drive, Hampton, Middlesex, and Mrs Bettina Hawkins, of Seaview, Isle of Wight, share the doubled prize because there was no daily winner on Saturday.

"I struck gold", said Mrs Cooper. "This comes out of the

Portfolio Gold

blue and I have not yet decided how to spend it. I got a card early last summer and I play only occasionally as I am not a great competition player."

Mrs Hawkins, a widow with four grandchildren, said she was "amazed and delighted" with her win and had lots of

things to spend the money on. Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold Card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold
The Times,
PO Box 40,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

Dial-a-debate scheme

A proposed British Telecom dial-a-debate service, live from the Commons, has won the support of an all-party committee.

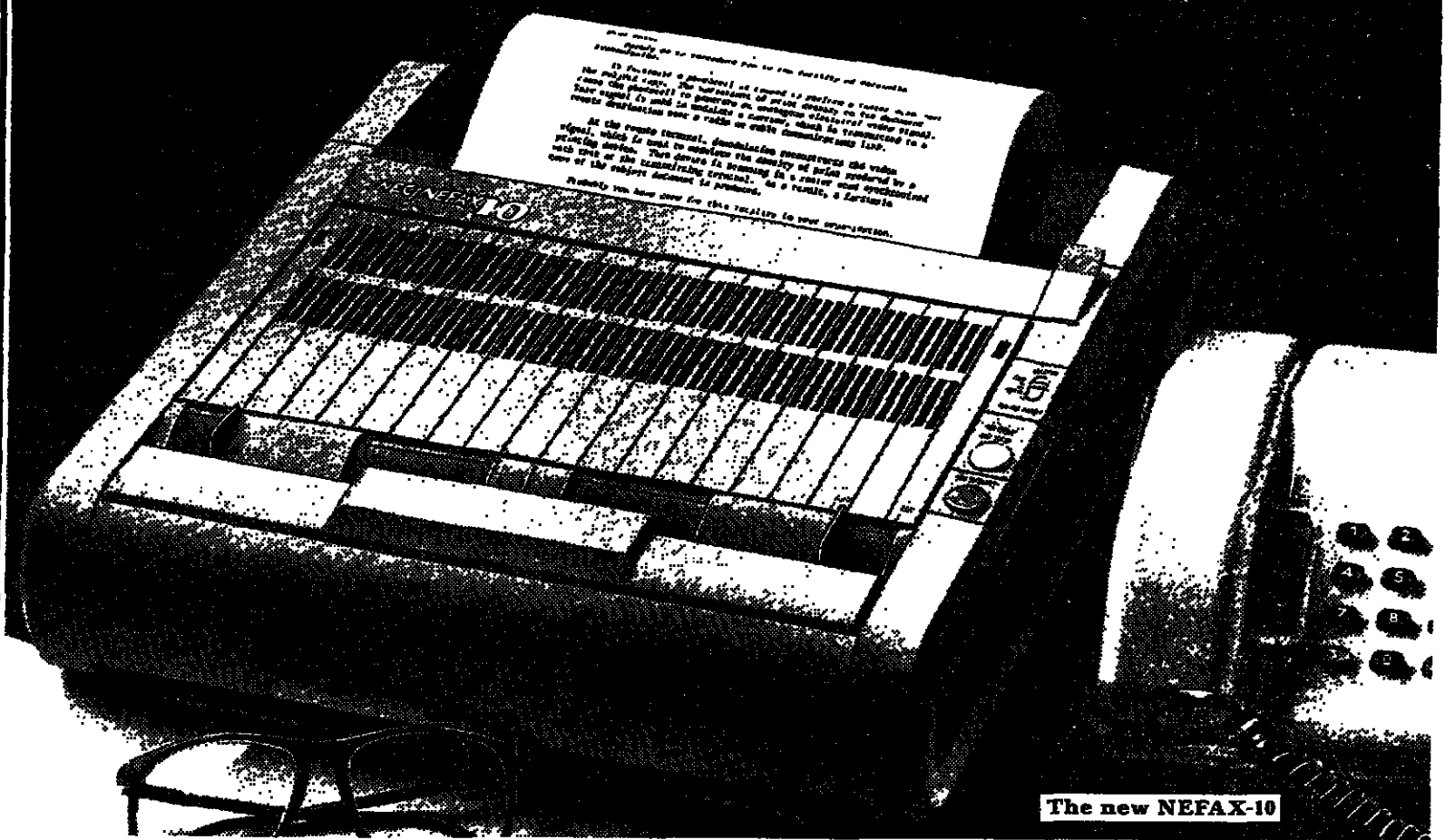
In a report by the Commons sound broadcasting committee, the members ask for an early debate on the subject.

The four-man committee is sharply critical of existing radio coverage of the Commons and points to declining BBC coverage of live debates.

It says the BBC has concentrated on "the hubbub of question time and other moments of uproar" with the result that "many people's judgement of the House is based upon two quarter-hours a week selected from an average sitting week of at least 40 hours".

Select committee on Sound Broadcasting: A Telephone Broadcast Service of Proceedings in the Chamber of the House of Commons (Stationery Office: £2.70).

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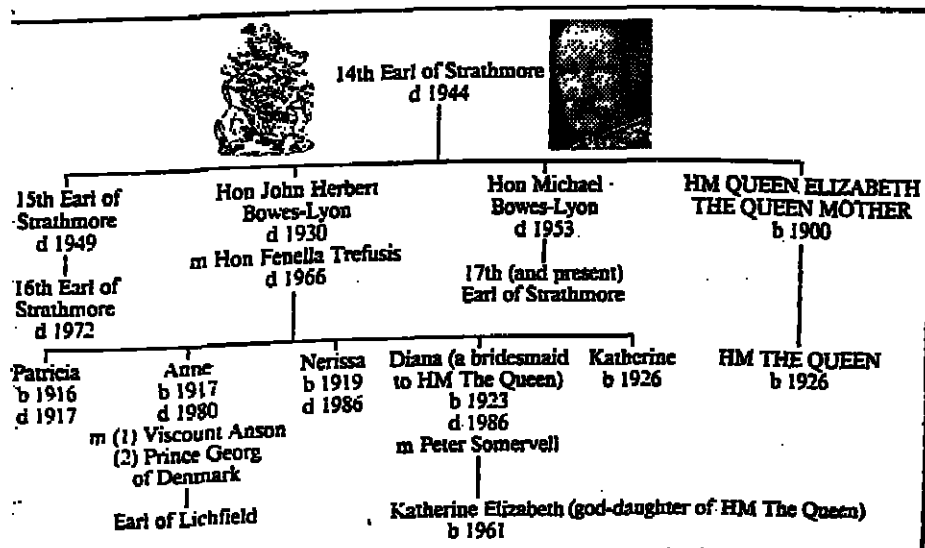
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Airport schemes given £220m

The Government has authorised local authorities to spend more than £220 million on airport development, compared with £16 million spent by the last Labour Government, Mr Michael Spicer, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said during a question time.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) will be confirmed that the Government believes that airports should no longer be able to get their sticky fingers on taxpayers' and ratepayers' money as in the past? Will he also confirm that county councils who are discharging their regional airport duties should be required to vote when those councils ask for money?

Mr Spicer: Under the terms of the new Act, any such council will not be allowed to vote on airport matters.

Subsidies are a matter for local authorities so long as airport companies remain in local authority hands. It is our clear intention that they should not, but that they should be able to raise the money to run them. If they decide on a subsidy, the accounts will show clearly to ratepayers what they are contributing.

Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman, said that the economy of the West Midlands would be boosted by giving gateway status to the fastest growing regional airport in the country (gateway status involves direct international flights).

Mr Spicer: If American airlines wish to come forward to enter Birmingham, we will consider that seriously.

£7m to fight crop pests

Britain is to provide an additional £7 million to help to fight crop and storage pests in Africa, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, announced in a Commons written reply.

He had instructed the Tropical Development and Research Institute to increase its operations in that area.

In the past two months more than £2 million had been committed by the Overseas Development Administration to help to combat the present increase in the number of desert locusts and grasshoppers in eastern and western Africa.

Investment up by 10%

There had been an increase of 10 per cent in real terms in transport infrastructure capital investment since the present Government took office, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, said during a question time.

At the same time, he said, subsidies had been reduced by 31 per cent in real terms. There had been an increase of 48 per cent in real terms in the proportion devoted to the rail industry, and capital expenditure on roads had increased by 30 per cent in real terms.

Rotary polio plan helped

The Government has agreed to give £1 million to the Rotary International's Polio Plus Campaign overseas, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said during Commons questions.

He said that it was an excellent campaign and Rotary was to be congratulated on its initiative.

Costly pledge for election

The original proposal to build the Humber Bridge had been the most expensive by-election promise in history, Mr Peter Bottomley, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said during Commons questions.

Replying to Mr Richard Hinchman (Glasgow and Scotland, C), who asked what the Government was going to do about the capital debt on the bridge, he said that he looked forward to hearing from the Humber Bridge Board.

Stockport hive of activity

Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, agreed that things had changed for the better in Stockport since the arrival of the Bee Line Buzz bus company. To laughter, he told the Commons during a question time that he had found the whole place to be a hive of activity.

But he warned MPs that the Labour Party was pledged to see the end of such free enterprise companies by the repeal of the Transport Act, 1985.

£3m grant for Aids

Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said that he had decided to give £3 million in 1987-88 to the World Health Organization's special programme on Aids. In addition, he had agreed to provide, over three years, about £1.6 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation to help it to develop their capability to combat the disease.

Jail figures

On March 27 the total prison population in England and Wales, including Immigration Act detainees, was 49,071.

Government of 'double standards' under fire

The Government came under sharp attack from Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party, as having double standards and being uncaring when he opened an Opposition debate on social and economic inequalities in the nation.

This was, he said, a Government that insisted that the highest paid must be paid more to increase incentives - but insisted equally that the lowest paid should get less, to preserve jobs.

A Government that had abandoned the investment income surcharge, but increased pensions by only 80p.

A Government that had emphasized the importance of the family and family values, yet had increased homelessness and the number of people in bed-and-breakfast lodgings.

A Government that had prevented husbands coming to the United Kingdom to join their British wives because those husbands were black or Asian.

If the Prime Minister's claims that Conservatism had produced prosperity were true, why could pensioners not have an additional £8 for couples and another £5 for those on their own?

That would have been taking a big step towards returning the pension to what it would have been if the Government had not broken the link between pension and wages.

If the economy was so buoyant and prosperity so secure, why not design a system of unemployment benefit for the 1.3 million people who had been on the dole for a year or more?

Why, if the country was so prosperous, did the Government make mean cuts in maternity and death grants, housing benefits and mortgage relief for the unemployed (Labour cheers)?

The Government defended as an economic miracle a growth rate that was somewhat less than 1.4 per cent a year.

Either the claims of success were bogus, or the Government did not care.

Britain was a totally divided society, and the gulf had widened constantly since 1979, not by chance nor by coincidence. The widening gulf between the rich and the rest, the gulf between North and South, between inner cities and outer suburbs, between working and unemployed, between black and white, was the intentional outcome of Government policy, the policy natural to the new Conservatism.

It was clear that the Conservative politicians believed that, by neglecting the men and women whose votes they had already lost - the unemployed, ethnic minorities, one-parent families - they could concentrate resources on the Conservative voters in the prosperous South and the suburbs.

The modern Conservative Party was profoundly wrong in that judgement, and was in error in under-estimating the British people, in its Budget judgement. All the evidence was that it had not been a Budget the people of the country needed or wanted.

"I believe, and my party believes, that the lasting and real success of the country, whether measured by the reduction of

crime or the increase in national income, is dependent on the creation of one nation, in which every citizen feels part of one community, with a vested interest in society's success.

"A more equal society would be a more prosperous and more peaceful society. The vast majority want to see a fairer society, against which this Government has turned its face."

It was the view of many who did not live in those two nations that Conservative Central Office was wrong to believe that the have-haves had no concern for the welfare of the have-nots.

"The British people have more compassion and more commonsense than the chairman of the Tory Party (Mr Norman Tebbit) realises. Of course, with the general election approaching, the more intelligent Conservatives will attempt to obscure the hard face of the real Tory Party."

Last Saturday, cosmetic treatment had been applied by the Home Secretary, (Mr Douglas Hurd) and the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Peter Walker), both of whom had spoken in Oxford about disadvantage and deprivation.

His own constituency was part of the inner city of Birmingham and in his inner-city ward, male unemployment was almost 30 per cent. Improvement grants planned and promised by a Tory council could not be financed. Career teachers in secondary schools were being retrained to help young people face four or five years on the dole.

He hoped that, during the election campaign, Mrs Thatcher would visit his constituency of Sparkbrook and express the Government's concern about the conditions in the inner cities. He promised her a peaceful but spontaneous reception.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) if things are as bad as he says why is this party leading so heavily in the polls nationally and even by several points in the West Midlands?

Mr Hattersley recommended him to spend less time parading his traditional values and to start thinking about the lives of real people and not about the opinion polls.

Mr Roy Hattersley was ruled out of order when he referred to the start of the debate to the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) reminded him of the tradition that MPs do not criticize each other in that way, except by means of a formal motion.

There were heard Labour protests when the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) reminded him of the tradition that MPs do not criticize each other in that way, except by means of a formal motion.

Mr Hattersley pointed out that he had notified both Mr Keith Best (Wye and Mole Valley, C) and Mr Eric Cockburn (Ludlow) of his intention to refer to them. If he was now to be prevented from mentioning them further - in this debate, he would move on.

He deeply resented, in the interest of the 50 per cent of male unemployed people in his constituency, what had happened to them because of the Government's policy.

There had been a crime explosion during the past eight years. There was a growing fear



Mr Kenneth Baker in London yesterday for the launch of TASC, speaking to Roger Platt, aged 15, who has designed an hydraulic grab (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Big drive for more teachers

A big drive to recruit more teachers was launched yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, who announced that the Government is to spend £300,000 a year on a new unit, called TASC, which has been set up to promote teaching as a career.

Mr Baker said that the number of people applying to train as teachers of mathematics, physics and design and technology, subjects in

which there is a critical shortage, had risen by 35 per cent in the past year to just over 2,000. The total number applying for teacher training was up by 12 per cent to nearly 27,000.

Mr Baker said: "These are encouraging figures".

"The recent pay award has helped to convince young people that teaching is a worthwhile career." He added that no one who was suited and qualified for teacher training would be turned away.

allocated to assisted places in private schools, assisting the financially and socially privileged, while state schools were short of books and equipment and urgent repair and renovation waited to be done.

While the Government was helping the most privileged children of privileged families in the West Midlands, down the road in Sparkbrook, and in inner cities throughout the country, there were over-crowded, dilapidated buildings and storages of teachers of English as a second language and those dealing with remedial needs.

The Government's neglect of the poorest families was blatant and undeniable.

Child benefit was the most direct and cheapest way of helping low and moderate income families, but increases had not kept pace with income levels, its real value had fallen over the past eight years.

"I put the question directly to the Paymaster General: does he believe that benefit should at least maintain its real value? As a minimum it is essential to put this benefit in some relationship to the index link and regular review procedures."

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster

The Government could take credit for consistency. It had not only betrayed the old, but the young with equal determination, assisting the privileged few at the expense of the majority of pupils in schools and sixth form colleges. £30 million of subsidy each year was

richer, the absolute best that could be said about the real earnings of the poor was that their earnings had stood still.

The gap between the rich and the rest had been widened by the tax structure. The standard of living of the rich had improved seven times faster than that of the poorer.

"I suspect the country will not abide by your ruling," he said the Speaker.

Mr Hattersley had attacked what he called Conservative double standards. What would Mr Best say to a constituent who had made separate applications for supplementary benefit (Labour cheers)?

Would he believe that such a man had done nothing wrong? Would he excuse him because he claimed he did not understand the rules? Then there was Mr Cockburn...

At that point the Speaker intervened.

After further interruptions from Labour MPs, the Speaker called for order and said: I am bound by the rules of this House.

Mr Hattersley: I abide by your ruling.

The lowest paid 10 per cent of workers had increased by 80 per cent, while the earnings of the most highly paid had risen by 180 per cent.

The increased pay of the lowest paid was exactly the same as the increase in the retail price index, so while the rich got

Havers denies allegation of improper influence by the Prime Minister on the Law Officers

The Prime Minister had never put any improper influence upon his office or that of the Solicitor General, Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, told MPs during questions on the Attorney General's independence in his House of Commons speech.

Mr Peter Wright's book, *Spycatcher*.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab), had asked if Sir Michael and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, were not concerned "at the way the Prime Minister over the years has seriously berated his office and used various ways to

undermine the Attorney General's position?"

"All the legal ramifications and the rest will not stop Labour MPs demanding a full judicial inquiry into the serious allegations that criminal and subversive elements in M15 tried to destabilize an elected government in the 1970s."

Sir Michael Havers: "I am satisfied, as is the Solicitor General, that there has never been any occasion in which any improper influence was put by the Prime Minister upon our offices. I wish to make that absolutely clear."

Mr Winnick: The Solicitor General's letter?

case of Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds, South and Morley, Lab, a former Home Secretary), will the Attorney General agree that the main issue is the bounden duty of someone who has taken an oath of security to the Crown to honour its pledges of confidentiality?"

As the Opposition parties fell over themselves to criticize the Government for the court case, Sir Michael Havers said that he would draw the question to the attention of the Home Secretary (Mr Douglas Hurd).

The circumstances in which Winston Silcott was on bail on a murder charge when he killed Police Constable Keith Blakelock during the Broadwater Farm riot in London must never be repeated, Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) said during Commons questions.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said that the Home Secretary (Mr Douglas Hurd) was looking at the events that led to the granting of bail in that case and the Government would consider if any lessons were to be learnt from that.

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that Sir Patrick Mayhew was fond of telling the House about the importance of collective responsibility. Which side were the law officers on, the side of the Lord Chancellor or that of the Home Secretary?

The Lord Chancellor, an outburst recently, said that the Bail Act was not working and that he had hoped that it would not do so.

The Home Secretary, on the other hand, had said how important it was to ensure that not too many people were kept in prison and that the courts were more reluctant now to let people out on bail than one fifth of people in prison had not yet been convicted. Would Sir Patrick bring the matter of collective responsibility to the attention of the Lord Chancellor?

Sir Patrick Mayhew said that the Lord Chancellor had said that there might be a case to review the operation of the Bail Act. Equally it might be necessary to allow it to remain longer to see if a clear picture would emerge.

"I do not understand the Home Secretary to be saying anything different. He is looking at the events leading up to the grant of bail to Winston Silcott and will consider if there are any lessons to be learnt."

Scottish rates

Exemptions to be considered

Upper House rises for a two-week Easter break.

Lord Whitelaw, leader of the Lords, is determined to see that the Government is not beaten in the division lobbies. Effective whipping by the Conservatives' business managers and the backing of a solid group of independent cross-benchers have given him comfortable majorities so far.

Promises by Lord Glenarthur, the Scottish Office Minister, to look again at contentious issues have also helped to stave off rebellions from some of the independent-minded Scottish Conservative and cross-bench peers. But the Government could face stiffer opposition during the report stage and third reading if concessions are not made.

The Earl of Perth, an Independent peer, is fighting for overseas students to be excused paying the whole of a community charge. The move has the backing of the British Council and the principals of Scottish universities.

As a former member of the

Shipping decline

worries House

Fears about the decline of the merchant fleet were voiced by MPs during questions in the Commons. The Opposition said there had been not just a decline but a "massive haemorrhage".

Mr Archie Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, L) asked if Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, had had a chance to see a prediction from the General Council of British Shipping that the UK merchant fleet might be as low as 100 ships by 1995.

Two things needed to be looked at: the unfair effects of the tax regime applying to shipping compared with overseas competitors and the unfair competition coming from countries such as Korea and Taiwan in terms of subsidies for their shipbuilding industries.

Mr Moore said that the tax question was one for the Chancellor. Under the British presidency of the EEC last year, the Government had been able to secure a package of measures to try to prevent unfair competition.

Mr Donald Dixon (Jarrow, Lab) said that this was possibly the only maritime nation in the world that did not have a maritime policy. Would he come forward with some sort of policy which would save the

Parliament

Shipping decline

merchant fleet and the shipbuilding industry?

Mr Moore said that there was a maritime policy. Most maritime nations had suffered even more than this country in the very radical decline in the shipping industry.

Mr Edward Loyden (Liverpool, Garston, Lab) said that most people thought the Government's policy was one of presiding over the decline of the British maritime fleet.

Mr Moore said that it would be no use to maritime interests if the Government ignored basic realities. They had seen a huge over-supply of shipbuilding.

Mr Roger Stott, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the reason that 90 per cent of ships charged with light dues (for the upkeep of lighthouses) were foreign was a clear indication of the decline of the British fleet.

"It is not just a decline. It is a massive haemorrhage. Unless the Government does something soon to stop that decline, we will not have a fleet within the next 10 years."

Mr Moore said that he was not under any illusions about the difficulties being faced by the merchant marine in this country as throughout the world.

General and Minister for Employment: I voted for that during the hyper-inflation of the last Labour Government and he voted against it with equal enthusiasm.

Mr Hattersley said that the Paymaster General might have believed in it then, he did not believe in it now. "I believe in now and I believe it has to be introduced in a way that protects families."

The 4 million unemployed and those on low and moderate incomes were suffering multiple deprivation under this Government. They faced reduced services, reduced benefits, deteriorating housing and inadequate medical care.

There were in Britain today 800,000 families without decent homes, having to live in multi-occupation, in homes unfit for human habitation and in slums or tenements.

It was also a fact, as shown by the stark and simple conclusions of the Health Education Council report, that health of the upper income families had improved faster than the health of the low-income families. In some cases, the health of poorer families had actually deteriorated.

The conclusions of the report had been challenged, but all the evidence supported the view that the report was correct.

One reason for saying that was the intervention of Lord Wyatt, "The Pluto of the News of the World."

"Whenever this Government is particularly worried, it wheels out its most consistent ready-made address the subject in the style and grammar of a Monday Club news letter."

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General and Minister for Employment, said that Mr Hattersley had relaunched all the same ideas and policies, relished in the usual way.

Mr Hattersley's attack had been fundamentally mistaken. The Government's concern was to ensure that people were better off, that they enjoyed a rising standard of living, better health, better quality education and better public services.

That did not imply that they were seeking to create a society in which there were no differences at all. Differences were bound to exist. It would always be the case that at any given moment some industries would prosper and develop more than others.

"Differences are not the same as divisions and people who try to elevate the differences which exist into divisions in society are doing that society a gross disservice."

Differences of income encouraged people to develop skills in demand and provided incentives to advance and lead and change society for the better.

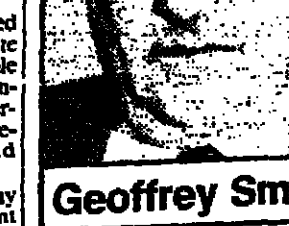
Mr Hattersley had made a great deal about the faster earnings growth of the better-off. Between 1978-79 and 1981-82, people on five times average earnings had enjoyed real increases in pay faster than those on half average earnings.

The result was that those on five times average earnings saw an increase in the real take-home pay of 38 per cent compared to an increase of 28 per cent of those on half average earnings.

"But all had an increase, a quite remarkable increase in take-home pay at every level of earnings."

He was acutely aware that growth in the economy might somehow pass by the unemployed. They could not allow society to divide into a group of insiders getting better off in work and outsiders getting lower incomes for long periods.

The whole point of the Government's policies on employment, work experience and training had been to make sure that the unemployed did not become outsiders.



Geoffrey Smith

If Dr David Owen is correct, we should by this evening know the date of the general election. But I do not believe that Mrs Thatcher has ever seriously considered going on May 7, as he suggests.

An election then would certainly have the convenience of being combined with the local district elections, which would give the Conservatives their best chance of recapturing a number of local authorities at the same time as winning at Westminster.

It would catch Labour in disarray and enable the Government to capitalize quickly on Mrs Thatcher's Russian visit. There is quite a bit to be said in politics for taking an opportunity while it is there.

Wary of seeming opportunistic

But Mrs Thatcher is wary of appearing opportunistic. She is instinctively cautious and she would feel uncomfortable about going to the country again before completing four full years of her second term, which would not be until June.

So why then did Dr Owen risk such an emphatic public prediction which is likely to be so swiftly and completely disproved? It might be that he was so confident in his judgment that he was determined to display his gift for prophecy to the discomfiture of the rest of us. But I do not find the idea of Dr Owen auditioning as a political commentator altogether convincing.

It seems to me much more probable that he is engaged in a subtle manoeuvre. I doubt if he has ever considered May 7 a strong possibility. He must know that, whatever logical arguments might be advanced in favour of that date, it would be out of character for Mrs Thatcher to gamble on an early general election without first checking the evidence of the local elections. Otherwise she would be basing her decision almost entirely on the opinion polls.

But the more he talks about May the more likely he makes an election in June. It must suit the Alliance to have the election while most of the polls show it running ahead of Labour. So the sooner the better for Dr Owen.

Mrs Thatcher would be better placed if Labour rather than the Alliance seemed the main threat: that would be more likely to drive wavering Tories back into the fold. But she must be afraid of giving any impression of dithering.

That would belie her Iron Lady reputation, and she must always have before her eyes the awful warning of Mr Callaghan's postponement in October, 1978.

The effect of Dr Owen's "type" will be to make it look as if Mrs Thatcher has moved back from the brink if she does not seek a May election, even if in her own mind she has never thought of giving the signal. If she then decided not to go in June it might begin to look uncomfortably close to a habit. Because of Dr Owen, what was really a first postponement might appear to be the second.

The danger of waiting for the local election results is that they might seem discouraging at first glance. The comparison will be with 1983, just before the last general election, when the Conservatives were still benefiting from the Falklands factor.

They are therefore almost bound to lose some seats this time. The results are likely to look worse for the Conservatives than in fact they are.

Silcott 'error' warning

The circumstances in which Winston Silcott was on bail on a murder charge when he killed Police Constable Keith Blakelock during the Broadwater Farm riot in London must never be repeated, Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) said during Commons questions.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said that the Home Secretary (Mr Douglas Hurd) was looking at the events that led to the granting of bail in that case and the Government would consider if any lessons were to be learnt from that.

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that Sir Patrick Mayhew was fond of telling the House about the importance of collective responsibility. Which side were the law officers on, the side of the Lord Chancellor or that of the Home Secretary?

The Lord Chancellor, an outburst recently, said that the Bail Act was not working and that he had hoped that it would not do so.

The Home Secretary, on the other hand, had said how important it was to ensure that not too many people were kept in prison and that the courts were more reluctant now to let people out on bail than one fifth of people in prison had not yet been convicted. Would Sir Patrick bring the matter of collective responsibility to the attention of the Lord Chancellor?

Sir Patrick Mayhew said that the Lord Chancellor had said that there might be a case to review the operation of the Bail Act. Equally it might be necessary to allow it to remain longer to see if a clear picture would emerge.

"I do not understand the Home Secretary to be saying anything different. He is looking at the events leading up to the grant of bail to Winston Silcott and will consider if there are any lessons to be learnt."

Complacency the enemy

But if the Central Office computers cannot cope with that conundrum they are not worth the money paid for them. It should not matter to the Government if it goes into the campaign with some superficial discouragement. That might prevent its supporters becoming complacent.

The Conservatives would have reason to be deterred only by hard evidence in the results. Unless this is distinctly unfavourable, I think they would now be wise to have a June election.

Both the direct and indirect benefits of the Budget would have found their way into the voters' pockets by then, and I am doubtful if circumstances for the Conservatives would really improve later in the year.

The more expectations rise the less likely it is that Mrs Thatcher will be able to wait until then.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Social Services; Prime Minister. Debate on Foreign Affairs.

Lords (2.30): Abolition of Domestic Rates Etc (Scotland) Bill, committee. Fourth day.

Thatcher's advantage in marginal seats no longer certain

Complex message from voters as poll confirms Conservatives' lead

By David Butler

The Times/MORI poll in marginal seats confirms the complexity of the message which the electorate is sending to the Prime Minister as she sifts the advice on election timing which is being broadcast at her from all sides.

It reaffirms that she at present enjoys a lead hand-some enough to secure a comfortable majority. But it casts doubt on the recent discovery that the Conservatives enjoy a special advantage in the marginals.

It strongly suggests a volatility among voters which could

MORI conducted face-to-face interviews between 27-31 March among a representative quota sample of 1,410 adults aged 18 plus in 73 Conservative-held marginals.

Sixty of the constituencies would go to Labour on the basis of a swing of 10 per cent, and 22 would go to the Alliance on a swing of 5 per cent (nine constituencies fall into both categories).

A total of 1,094 interviews were conducted in Conservative/Labour marginals, and 658 in Conservative/Alliance marginals.

Copyright: MORI/The Times.

make nonsense of detailed predictions based on current polling.

The new survey records a sharp movement to the Alliance both in Conservative marginal seats vulnerable to Labour and in Conservative-held marginals where the Alliance is the main challenger. During the past six weeks, the Alliance seems to have advanced even more in the marginal seats than in the nation as a whole.

Its spectacular by-election successes, first in Greenwich and then in Truro, have apparently alerted people to the possibilities of tactical voting. Labour support has slumped furthest in those seats where the Alliance came second in the election of 1983.

The most striking finding from this poll is that marginal seats may not, after all, be so different from other constituencies. MORI's February findings in the same constituencies were in line with similar marginal studies by Harris for *Weekend World* and by Gallup for *Newsnight*. All showed that in marginal seats, the Conservatives were doing better than in the country as a whole — a finding which significantly affects any election results.

This time, the swing from Conservative to Labour in marginals being fought between the two parties is 1.5 per cent, only 0.5 per cent below the 2 per cent shown in MORI's most recent nationwide findings. And nowadays a 0.5 per cent swing only switches five seats, making a mere 10 seat difference to the parliamentary majority.

The apparently different behaviour of the marginal seats has been puzzling politicians, pundits and pollsters. But this poll may make the mystery evaporate. The Alliance upsurge has been overwhelmingly at Labour's expense.

Unless there is some exceptional regional fluctuation during the election itself, we may still be able to rely on those simple calculations on the parliamentary arithmetic which assume an equal swing in every constituency (or at least that deviations cancel each other out).

The latest polls continue to show violent lurches. In the last week, the Conservative lead has been recorded at 12 per cent (MORI in the *Times*), 9 per cent (Marplan in the *Daily Express*) and 5 per cent (Gallup for *Newsnight*). The Alliance has moved up from some findings of barely 20 per cent two months ago to some of 32 per cent last week.

So sudden a swing, provoked apparently by a by-election success and a bit of fumbling by Labour, cannot

be deep-rooted. It may be quickly wuffed away by Labour's new publicity drive or by the municipal election results, or by the impending tax cuts, as they touch the hip-pocket nerve. On the other hand, the Alliance upsurge may not yet have peaked.

Behind these broad figures, some interesting details emerge. The latest move to the Alliance is particularly notable in Wales (where the parties have just held their annual regional conference) and in the Midlands.

The Midlands has in the past been a crucial battleground on which elections have been won and lost.

As far as salient issues are concerned, jobs, education and the health services continue to be the weak point for

the Conservatives. Their own followers lack confidence in their preferred party's policies.

MORI asked how unacceptable or acceptable they would find it if any or no party won a clear majority. A third of Alliance supporters said that a Conservative victory would be acceptable; just over half

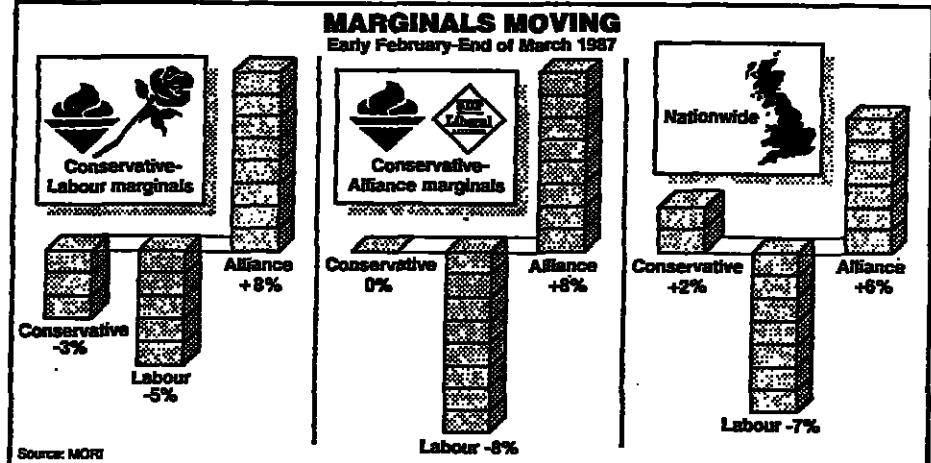
Labour supporters would accept an Alliance victory; just under a third and a half of Conservative and Labour voters respectively would accept the Alliance holding the balance in a hung Parliament.

The author is a fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?

	Con/Lab marginals	Con/Alln marginals
1983 Feb 87 Today Chng	1983 Feb 87 Today Chng	1983 Feb 87 Today Chng
Conservative	42 40 37 -3	43 38 38 0
Labour	33 36 31 -5	18 30 22 -8
Alliance	23 22 30 +8	37 29 37 +8

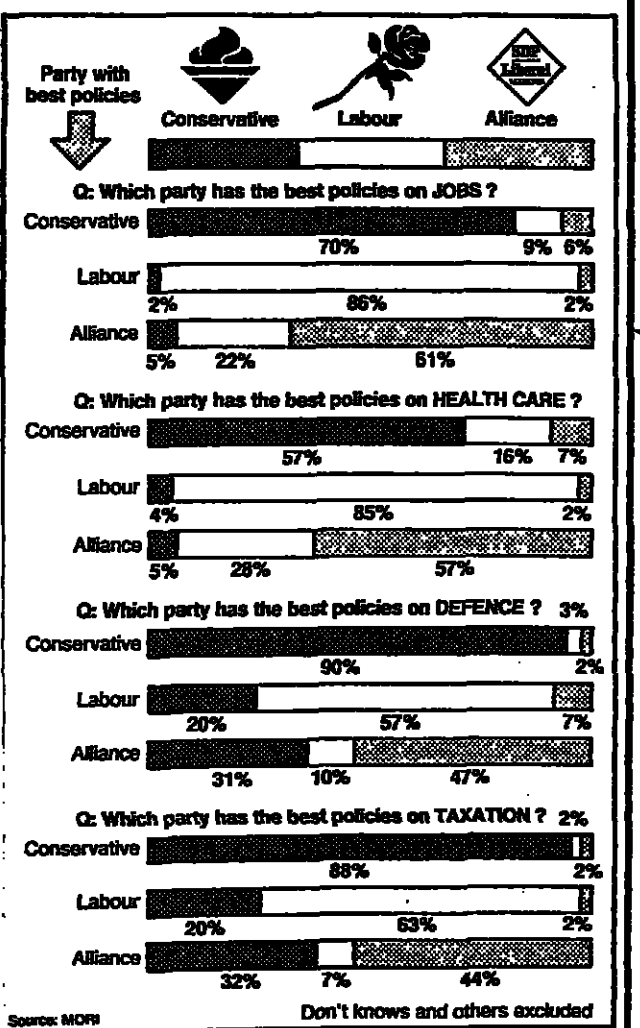
Con to Lab swing nationwide - 1983 to April 1987: 2%
Con to Lab swing in Con/Lab marginals - 1983 to April 1987: 1%
% vote - don't know excluded



Seats and votes

	Con	Lab	Alln	Other	Overall majority
1983 election vote share (%)	44	28	26	2	
1983 seats	397	209	23	21	+144
MORI national poll Mar 87 (%)	41	29	29	2	
Seats on uniform swing	366	228	32	24	+82
Seats on marginal swing	371	224	32	23	+92

Votes in Great Britain only



Economist jury is sent to hotel

The High Court jury in the long-running libel action between the Greek newspaper *To Ethnos* and *The Economist* Foreign Report yesterday failed to reach a verdict.

They were sent to an hotel for the night and will resume deliberations today.

Hearings in the case have lasted eight weeks. The jury has heard the two publications dissect each other's reputations at an estimated legal cost of more than £1 million.

The case dates back to April 1982 when *The Economist* published a subscription-only *Foreign Report* on an article alleging that the Athens abductor *To Ethnos* (The Nation), had been set up with a Soviet subsidy and was running at a loss, which was being net by the Russians.

The paper's publisher, George Bobolas, and his company, Ethnos Publications, sued for libel damages, claiming that the articles made them out to be puppets of Moscow and traitors to Greece.

The Economist, denying libel, sought to justify the "sting" of the article — namely that the paper was a Soviet mouthpiece, and not part of the free Press — but did not seek to prove the specific allegations.

Mr Justice Kenneth Jones told the jury yesterday that *The Economist* had conceded it could not prove that the original allegations were true.

The case was given an added twist with *The Economist* counter-suing over two articles in *To Ethnos* — one based on an interview with a former CIA agent — alleging the *Foreign Report* was a tool of the CIA.

The Greek paper has accepted it was mistaken in making that accusation, but is pleading qualified privilege.

Deaf push for sign language in schools

When Emma Tumim, who is profoundly deaf, was once caught using sign language at school, she was chastised in front of fellow deaf and partially deaf pupils.

Now Emma, aged 23, is helping a campaign to bring back the widespread use of sign language in schools, which mostly provide only oral teaching and lip-reading tuition.

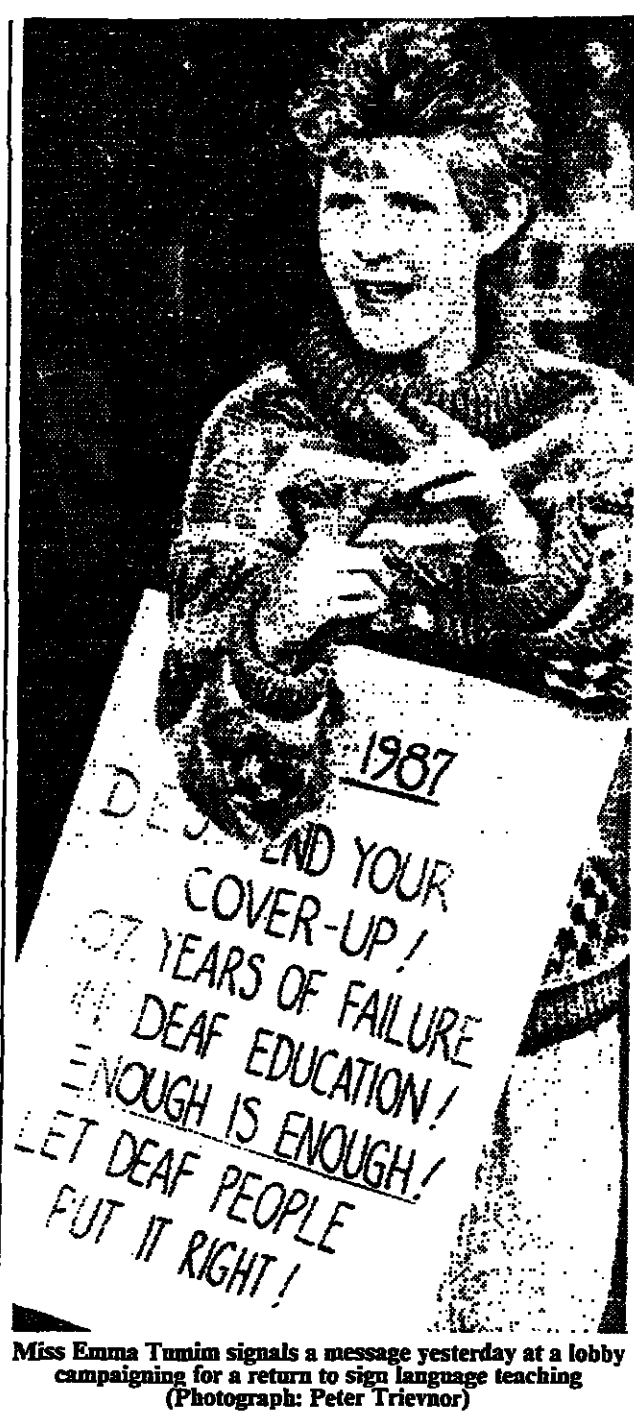
"It is vitally important that hearing people find out what deaf children are suffering", she said yesterday through an interpreter, at a lobby by the National Union of the Deaf at the Department of Education and Science.

"I learnt sign language at school from other children who had learnt it from their deaf parents. But I was always punished if I was caught using it."

Miss Tumim is one of an estimated 60,000 profoundly deaf people in Britain who have struggled through school. She was lucky. She gained two O levels and starts a diploma course this year.

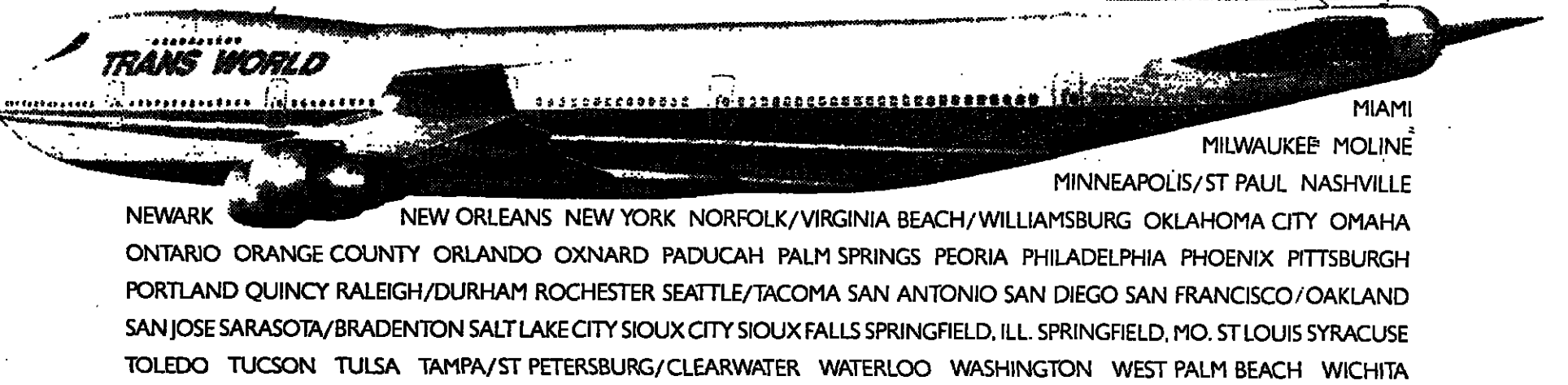
The NUD claims that profoundly deaf school leavers have an average reading age of 8½, can barely lip read and are unintelligible. Yesterday's lobby launched a campaign for courses which insist that teachers of the deaf are skilled in sign language.

Mr Raymond Lee, secretary of the NUD, said: "We have up to now been attacking individual schools for banning sign language but now we are putting the blame where it belongs, with the DES."



Miss Emma Tumim signals a message yesterday at a lobby campaigning for a return to sign language teaching (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

ALBUQUERQUE ANCHORAGE ATLANTA AUSTIN BALTIMORE BLOOMINGTON BOSTON BUFFALO BURBANK BURLINGTON
CAPE GIRARDEAU CEDAR RAPIDS CHAMPAIGN CHARLOTTE CHICAGO CINCINNATI CLEVELAND COLORADO
SPRINGS COLUMBIA/JEFFERSON CITY COLUMBUS DALLAS/FORT WORTH DAYTON DECATUR DENVER
DES MOINES DETROIT EVANSVILLE FAYETTEVILLE FORT LAUDERDALE/HOLLYWOOD FORT LEONARD
WOOD FORT MYERS FORT SMITH GREENSBORO/HIGH POINT/WINSTON-SALEM HARRISBURG HARRISON
HARTFORD HONOLULU HOUSTON JACKSONVILLE JOPLIN KANSAS CITY LAKE OF THE OZARKS
LAS VEGAS LINCOLN LITTLE ROCK LOS ANGELES LOUISVILLE MADISON MARION MEMPHIS



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Today, Bryan Nicholson, Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, will announce the launch of the National Training Awards, under the patronage of Sir John Harvey-Jones, MBE.

In an area where investment and effort have gone unnoticed for too long, the Awards will provide the winners with some much-needed publicity and prestige.

And, for industry in general, it's hoped that they will encourage others to begin, or expand, their own training programmes.

The National Training Awards are open to any organisation, public or private, regardless of size, able to show that its training, of whatever sort, has helped it run more smoothly.

Already, the Awards have the full support of the CBI, the TUC and Channel 4's 'Business Programme'.

Now all they need is yours. For entry details, fill in the coupon or phone 0800 100 100 free, and ask for National Training Awards.

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Hurd's goal to phase out TV licence 'not feasible'

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, will be told this week that his goal of phasing out the television licence and replacing it with a system of subscription is not economically feasible.

He is to receive a report, commissioned by the Home Office, which finds there is no practical way to convert the BBC to a system in which programmes are electronically coded and viewers allowed to choose whether to pay for the decoder.

The report criticizes a central recommendation of last year's Peacock committee on broadcasting finance, which proposed that subscription broadcasting be phased in as a way of substituting market forces for the licence fee.

If the report is accepted by the Government, the BBC can expect to be financed by licence income for the indefinite future, after the planned expiry of the licence fee in 1991. Mr Hurd has said that a decision on the future of the licence fee is contingent on the report's recommendations.

Technically it would be possible to force the BBC to scramble its transmissions electronically so that only those with a special receiver could view them, the report says.

But the cost of the equipment would be prohibitive. It would depend on the system but the bill for switching

Britain's 20 million television homes to subscription could run into billions.

The report examined two possible options. The first method, "pay-per-view", would allow viewers to pay only for the programmes they watched. It would require the most expensive type of home equipment as well as a complex payment system.

A simpler method would allow viewers to pay for the complete range of BBC programmes by monthly, quarterly or annual payments. That would require them to buy or rent the special receiver.

If payment was not received, the individually addressable receiver would be deactivated by a special code in the broadcast signal.

The equipment would be less costly than with the first system, but would nevertheless impose a considerable financial burden on viewers.

The report suggests that either system could result in a financial catastrophe for the BBC. An opinion survey conducted for the report suggests that millions of viewers can be expected to opt out.

The report said that in spite of the excessive costs of converting the BBC to a subscription system, the concept is practical for new television services, including direct satellite broadcast channels.



Young dancers receiving tuition in classical ballet at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden yesterday.

The 100 dancers are spending a week with the Royal Ballet. The company's principal dancers are providing classes and workshops and the week also includes performances by both the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera and visits to other theatres, museums and galleries.

The week ends with an open-air *Celebration of Youth Dance* in the Covent Garden Piazza on Saturday afternoon. (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

£30m Severn bridge repairs

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Almost £30 million is to be spent on strengthening and resurfacing the Severn bridge.

Mr Peter Bottomley, minister responsible for roads and traffic, yesterday announced that the two-year, £29.5 million contract had been awarded to John Laing Construction.

The work covers not only the Severn bridge, but also the two bridges across the river.

Wye, which together constitute the Severn crossing.

Complete closure of the crossing is planned for only four Sunday mornings in winter.

The work has been arranged to allow both lanes in each direction to be kept open all day during the summer and at all peak periods.

© The Department of Transport's "obsession" with build-

ing roads is criticized by the Friends of the Earth in a report published today.

It says that in Britain there is a bias towards road-building solutions to transport problems which is greater than in any other European country.

Capital Schemes? by Don Mathew (Friends of the Earth, 277 City Road, London EC1; £1.75).

Fans seek to quash Heyssel extradition

The 26 Liverpool football supporters ordered to be extradited to Belgium to face trial over the Heyssel stadium disaster asked the High Court yesterday to free them.

They are seeking writs of habeas corpus which would quash extradition orders granted last month by Highbury Corner magistrates in north London.

Rioting at the European Cup final at Heyssel in 1985 led to 38 deaths.

Mr Michael Morland, QC, for six of the supporters, told the court yesterday that many of the 26 admitted they were among Liverpool supporters who behaved in an "utterly shameful way, with tragic loss of life occurring".

But he said legal requirements must be strictly observed, not least because it was sought to make the 26 stand trial in a foreign land under foreign law.

He said the magistrates were entitled to make such an order only if satisfied that the conduct alleged constituted an extradition crime under British and Belgian law.

The 26 accepted for the purpose of argument that there was some evidence which would have justified commitment for trial in England on manslaughter charges.

The hearing is expected to last three days. The 26 have been released on bail.

Sellafield campaign brings in tourists

By Ronald Farr, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Sellafield's £2 million attempt to restore its reputation with an advertising campaign inviting the public to "Come and see us" brought 65,000 visitors to the nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria during the past year.

The leaks and spills which led to a £10,000 fine on British Nuclear Fuels provoked public alarm and a critical audit by the Health and Safety Executive Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Mr Mike Tynan, aged 30, the works administration manager, welcomed a critical watch of the nuclear industry.

Ninety per cent of the audit report had been exactly what BNF staff had told the inspectors about improvements that could be made to the plant. Mr Martin Wheeler, aged 27, manager in the high, medium and low liquid waste plant, was angry about Sellafield's reputation for calamity.

"The works standards here are equivalent to expecting a car mechanic to carry out a full service without getting a single spot of oil on himself", he said. Mr Paul Rowson, a project manager in operations research, came to Sellafield from Manchester to escape city pollution.

King Fahd in promise to pilgrims

By Clifford Loagley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has promised British Muslims that he will relieve restrictions on pilgrims to Mecca and Medina, the Islamic holy cities under his protection which all Muslims are bound to visit once in a lifetime.

He had a second meeting in London on Sunday night with three British Muslim representatives. Their spokesman afterwards called the meeting "a breakthrough".

The long-running quarrel between Muslims outside Saudi Arabia and the Saudi authorities has in the past given rise to protests.

The king's personal intervention came through the mediation of his brother, Prince Turki Bin Abdul Aziz.

The two basic complaints were that pilgrims to Mecca were not permitted to celebrate the Prophet's birthday, an important Muslim festival, and were not allowed to have with them translations of the Koran not authorized by the ultra-conservative Wahabi religious leadership.

Man drew sword 'on mugger'

A disabled man who was said to have defended himself against two muggers by drawing a sword stick, was accused of causing grievous bodily harm to one of them, at Haringey Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Mr Christopher Burke, for the prosecution, asked for a remand for two months to consider whether to continue with the prosecution brought by the British Transport Police.

He said the evidence showed that Mr Eric John Butler, aged 56, of Forest Glade, Waltham Forest, east London, had been attacked after collecting for charity.

Mr Butler was accused of wounding Mr Martin Day at Tottenham Hale Underground station on March 9.

Mr Colin Nott, for the defence, said that Mr Butler had been returning home on an Underground train after a day spent collecting for charity. He was kicked in the face, tried to escape, was caught, and found himself being strangled.

The magistrates felt two months was much too long a delay and remanded the case until May 6.

Docklands Railway: 2

Hopes take shape for extensions

In the second of two articles Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent, looks at the prospects for extending the railway which heralds the rebirth of London's docklands.

As preparations go ahead to bring the first phase of the London Docklands Light Railway into service, the project received a boost last week with the news that the Government was giving its full support to a Bill, now before Parliament, to authorize the construction of a second stage of the railway, costing £140 million.

The first phase, which is costing £77 million and runs from Tower Hill in the west and Stratford in the north down to the river Thames in the Isle of Dogs, opposite Greenwich, is due to be opened by the Queen at the end of July.

The second phase would extend the railway to a new town to be developed on 700 acres of derelict land in the area of the royal group of docks. The Department of Transport had been determined that this section of the railway should be built without government funds and now seems to have been satisfied that rising land values in the docklands will enable the necessary finance to be raised.

The precise line of this section of the railway has yet to be settled, but it would run along the northern side of the royal docks as far as Beckton. The extension would be four and a half miles long and have about 10 stations. London Regional Transport has estimated that it could

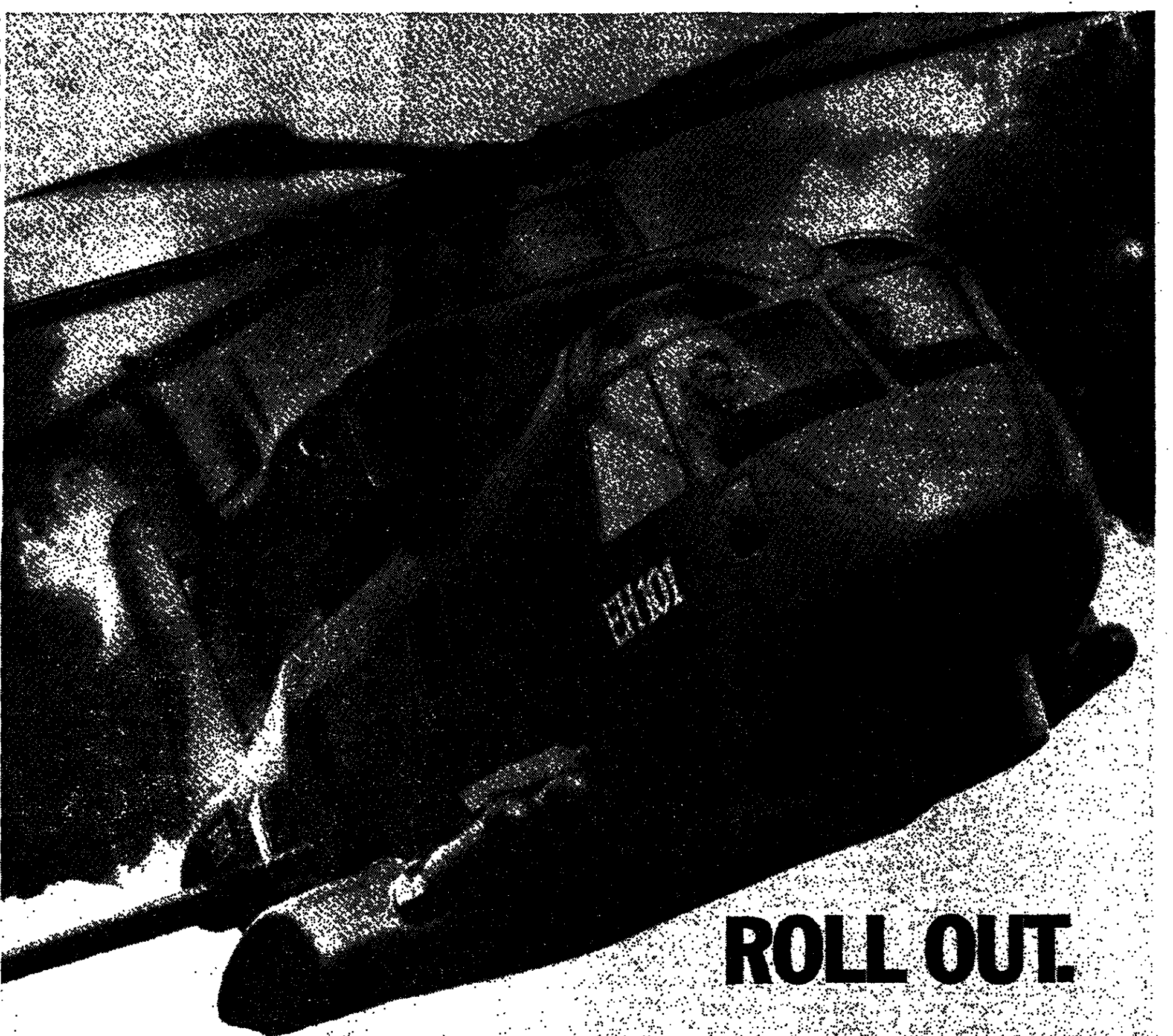
carry as many as 30 million passengers a year.

Construction could start late next year and the extension could be in use in 1991, if Parliament approves the Bill, and planning goes according to schedule.

The control centre at Poplar, from which the first phase of the railway will operate, has provision for handling the second phase as well. A third phase is also planned, which would extend the system west from Tower Hill into the City. That section of the railway will be built only if financial arrangements can be agreed with the consortium which is planning the huge development of Canary Wharf in dockland.

That phase is expected to cost about £100 million. It is believed that the consortium has offered to put up £45 million, with the rest of the money to be provided by the Government.

Practically the whole of the section, which would link with the London Underground network at Bank station, would be built below ground. The tunnels would have to be taken very deep to avoid foundations of buildings, sewers and other services which clutter the higher levels in the City. Much of it would run below the present Northern line tunnels. At one point the crown of the tunnel of the Bank extension line would be about 122 feet below ground level.



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A CONSCIOUS FORGERY OF HISTORY UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

"Rumanian Press published recently an article a synopsis of which is given below". Daily "Romania Libera" of March 12 carries a lengthy article by academicians Stefan Pascu, Dr. Mircea Musat and Dr. Florin Constantiniu that takes a stand against the gross distortions of the history of Transylvania and, hence of the history of the Romanian people, against harmful and defamatory theses on the Romanians, against the attempts to contest Romania's territorial integrity contained in the history of Transylvania (*Erdelyi Története*) that the publishing house of the academy of sciences of the Hungarian People's Republic put out in 1986 under the care of a member of the Hungarian Government.

Regretfully we must say from the beginning that the work hardly differs from the old Hungarian chauvinist and revisionist historiography in its fundamental theses and conclusions, show the Romanian historians. They note that the book resumes old assertions on the "Extermination of the Dacians" by the Roman conquerors, a "Thesis-Turned-Obsession of Hungarian Historiography" in order to refute the Romanian continuity in the North Danubian Dacian area, and especially in the intra-Carpathian space. The Hungarian historians deliberately ignore the findings of archaeological research that brought to light more and more testimonies of that continuity and roman inscriptions, widely known in world historiography, that document the same historical facts.

Reference is made to archaeological and historiographic evidence, by the Romanian historians who also quote from past Hungarian historians — like Huszti Andras — to support the Daco-Roman and Romanian continuity north of the Danube, and to reveal the political motive of the mystifications contained in the work of the Hungarian Academy: the attempt to locate the formation of the Romanian people only south of the Danube, in order to be able to depict Transylvania as a country vacated of its autochthonous population. The authors of the history of Transylvania try to arbitrarily change historical realities, maintaining that the Hungarian tribes would have "dismounted" in 894 in Transylvania first among a Slavic population, and only in 896 on the Pannonian Plain. "In that way Transylvania becomes" overnight an old cradle of the Hungarian tribes, older than the Pannonian Plain where the Hungarian state now lies. Well-known historical sources, among which Hungarian as well, like the chronicle of the anonymous notary of King Bela (anonymus), show that, when the Hungarian tribes began to raid Transylvania from Pannonia, the Romanians had been for many centuries in the intra-Carpathian area, organized in three statal political formations called "Voivodeships" (Duchies, "countries", etc. whose existence is fully corroborated by archaeological finds. But the authors of the History of Transylvania ignore, belittle or "nullify" all evidence of historical sources about the Romanian autochthonous character and continuity in the intra-Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic space, hence also in Transylvania, that does not fit into their prefabricated patterns. Their main intention is to prove the preconceived thesis, with obvious political ends, of the absence of the Romanians in Transylvania upon the Hungarians advent there, which contests the Romanian people's legitimate rights over its ancestral hearth. A relevant example in that respect is the "treatment" given to anonymus.

The authors of the article run by "Romania Libera" reject the injurious and defamatory assessments and characterizations of the Romanian people made by the Hungarian historians, mentioning facts and giving data that attest to the Romania's major role in the anti-Ottoman fights which ensured the Romanian countries the status of autonomy from the Porte and their recognition by the public opinion of the time as defenders of the European civilization and Christianity.

Special emphasis is placed on the distorted presentation of the political status of Transylvania in various historical periods. The Hungarian Academy's work does not mention that the Hungarian royalty adopted for Transylvania the political-administrative formula of principality, an institution specific to the mediaeval Romanian society on either side of the Carpathians. The reason for which this historical truth is buried can be easily understood. Otherwise, the Budapest authors should have admitted, as Hungarian historian Farczady Elek had in 1912, that owing to the presence of the Romanians with their specific institutions — Voivodeships and Cnezdoms organized all over Transylvania — the royalty was compelled to recognize and accept the political-administrative organization of the majority autochthonous Romanians.

The attempts to present Transylvania as a component part of Hungary are also groundless. The Hungarian Kingdom collapsed and was abolished as state after the Mohacs Disaster, being turned in 1541 into an Ottoman Pashalik, while Transylvania was an autonomous principality which enjoyed broad autonomy like the other Romanian countries — Moldavia and Walachia. Through their attempts to present Transylvania as a continuation of the Hungarian Kingdom and as a political entity differing from the other two Romanian states, the authors of the recently published work single out from a pleiad of Hungarian chroniclers, historians and geographers who insisted on the completely different orientation of Transylvania from Hungary. In their article the Romanian historians quote texts from writings by Cserei Mihaly, Szilagyi Sandor, Chalnoky Jenő, and from eighteenth century documents of the Transylvanian Aulic Chancellery in Vienna. "It is known what a great fuss was made in the old Hungarian historiography and is still made today, more particularly in the Hungarian emigration circles, about Hungary's millenary domination over Transylvania. But a simple arithmetic shows that the period in which Transylvania was a component part of Hungary lasted for 51 years which separated the institution of the Austro-Hungarian Dualism in 1867 from the decision of the December 1, 1918 great national assembly of Transyl-

vanian Romanians to unite Transylvania with Romania", the article in "Romania Libera" underscores.

Obsessed by the wish to contest the Romanian character of Transylvania, its organic integration into the Romanian land, history and life, the article shows, the Hungarian authors of the "History of Transylvania" equally distort the main stages in the Transylvanian Romanians' fight for national emancipation, denying, among other things, the national character of the great 1784 revolution led by Horia, Closca and Crisan, seriously misinterpreting the history of the Romanian Bourgeois-Democratic Revolution of 1848, and disconsidering the scope of the Memorandum Movement at the end of the nineteenth century. Furthermore, the Austro-Hungarian Dualism established in 1867, the incorporation of Transylvania into Hungary and the policy of force magyarization are not condemned in the Hungarian Academy's work as deserved.

"It would have been but natural for the Hungarian Historians to make an in-depth analysis of the consequences of the Dualist Formula on the Austro-Hungarian monarchy which was denounced by Marx, Engels and Lenin as a state of social and national oppression, a real prison for peoples," the article in "Romania Libera" points out.

In the short 51-year interval — between 1867 and 1918 — the Budapest Government pursued a policy of oppression of the non-Magyar nationalities, of their forced Magyarization by Draconian means which aroused the international public opinion's opprobrium, as well as harsh condemnation by outstanding personalities like Lev Tolstoy or B. Bjoernson of the state chauvinism it promoted.

Noting that the "History of Transylvania" gives a distorted image of the outstanding events of 1918 the article in "Romania Libera" recalls that historical facts proved that the peace treaties of 1919 and 1920 did nothing but internationally acknowledge the creation or the accomplishment of the national unity of the states in central or southern Europe. It is in this framework that the Romanians' fight to achieve national and state unity, on the basis of the fight to achieve national and state unity, on the basis of the right to self-determination, voiced in representative, plebiscitary assemblies, falls. The Romanian historians reject the presentation of the treaty of Trianon as an act corresponsable for the reactionary, fascist orientation of Horthy's Hungary assessing that such a concealment and distortion is a lamentable attempt to rehabilitate Horthy. They also note that in the section dwelling on the period after 1918 there is no reference to Transylvania's organic integration in the Unitary Romanian National State while the fascist Vienna award of August, 1940 is inaccurately presented as an act of "arbitration" requested by the Romanian Government, and the reprisals, massacres and crimes of the Horthy regime are toned down and justified. The authors of the "History of Transylvania" distort and falsify the aspects related to the deportation and massacre of the Jewish population of northern Transylvania during the Horthy occupation which exceeded by their cruelty even what happened in Nazi Germany.

The conclusion insinuated by the authors of the "History of Transylvania" is as grave as it is tendentious. The Romanian historians assess, in the Hungarian historians' opinion Transylvania is a distinct ethnical and cultural entity in central and eastern Europe and the course of its situation influences the development of that region, such an assessment. "Romania Libera" stresses, restricts the sovereignty of the Romanian state accrediting the idea that this province is not a component part of the Romanian state.

The authors of the "History of Transylvania" are interested less in the fate of the Magyar nationality in Romania and more in causing diversion and misleading public opinion. Their action is part of the attempts to create a false question of "Minorities in Romania" which has no objective justification as in the years of socialism the Romanian state has completely and definitely solved the national question — all the citizens of the country, irrespective of nationality, having equal rights and duties.

Through its political orientation "History of Transylvania" resumes theses circulated during Horthy's time by authors who are, this time too, members of the editorial staff. It is a work written in a revisionist and chauvinistic spirit perfectly falling in the Hungarian nationalistic historiographic literature which, from the last century to our days, tries to justify the revival of anachronistic political and territorial structures. The article in "Romania Libera" also shows noting the fact that there is no difference between the conclusions of the historiography of the Hungarian emigration and the historiography of the Hungarian People's Republic when it comes to Transylvania, more precisely to the revisionist position as far as it is concerned.

"History of Transylvania" is an example of how history should not be written. The deliberate ignorance of uncomfortable sources and of specialized literature that comes to different conclusions arbitrary interpretations, forgeries and denigrations characterize this work which we see as a late, anachronistic and regrettable edition of the old position of the Hungarian historiography, and more than that, of the Horthy period.

In their fight against socialism, back in 1956, Hungarians have had no luck.

They try now — with higher hopes — against socialists.

There's still to be seen, the way in which the western world will support this manoeuvre — as recently Hungarians have requested in Vienna — and, also and more interesting, the way Russians will swallow it.

WORLD SUMMARY

Homeland wins dispute on visas

Gaborone — Botswana yesterday appeared through quiet diplomacy to have won a dispute with South Africa that threatened to disrupt exports by frontier states (Andrew McEwen writes). A senior government source in Gaborone said that the South African government of Pophuthatswana had offered to drop its new visa requirements — in effect a climbdown by Pretoria, which, despite denials, is widely thought to have prompted the homeland administration to introduce them.

The requirements were seen as a reminder from Pretoria that exports could easily be prevented from reaching South Africa's ports. But the action backfired, causing more harm to the homeland and traders in Mafeking than to Botswana. Botswana built a turn-around point for trains six miles north of the border, insisting that South African crews collect wagons there, and enabling the Government to avoid having its crews apply for visas.

Homeless chaos fear

Nairobi — A senior United Nations official has warned of social chaos if there is not the political will to tackle the problem of the developing world's homeless millions (Alastair Matheson writes).

Ten years after its formation, the UN Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) is meeting here to discuss how to provide shelter for the world's homeless into the 21st century. The nine-day conference was opened yesterday by President Moi of Kenya. UNHCS predicts that population increases in developing countries will boost the global population to 6.1 billion by 2000.

Mystery killer

Karachi — Seven people, including a doctor and two Afghan refugees, have died of a mysterious haemorrhagic virus at Quetta and Pishin in the western Pakistan province of Baluchistan (Zahid Hussain writes). Another doctor and two nurses are also reported to be suffering from the disease, which is thought to have been brought from Afghanistan. The initial symptom is a high temperature. The virus enters the circulation and destroys red blood corpuscles. A team of specialists has been sent from the National Institute of Health in Islamabad to Quetta.

Demand to Gadafi

Cairo (Reuters) — President Mubarak of Egypt told Colonel Gadafi of Libya yesterday to free three Egyptians — two soldiers and a nurse — Tripoli is holding if he wants back two aircraft flown to Egypt by Libyan defectors.

His remarks, after he voted in Egypt's election, clarified last week's remarks, in which he was reported as demanding that Libya return three Egyptians involved in the 1985 hijack of an Egyptian airliner to Malta, which Cairo blamed on Tripoli. Two Libyan aircraft, a C 130 transport plane and a Chinook helicopter, are still in Egypt after being flown here in separate incidents last month by eight Libyan airmen. At least five of them have been granted political asylum.

Human rights appeal

Peking — Sweden has presented the Government here with a letter about human rights in China, according to Mr Ingvar Carlsson, right, the Swedish Prime Minister (Robert Grievess writes). He said: "It is a tradition we have when visiting. We bring this to the attention of the host country. This has been done a number of times." Mr Carlsson, on a six-day visit, did not seek Chinese reaction.



Editor goes free

Delhi (Reuters) — A magazine editor sentenced to three months imprisonment for publishing a cartoon depicting the members of a south Indian state assembly as pickpockets and ministers as bandits was freed yesterday after two days in prison. The Press Trust of India news agency said that Mr S. Balasubramanian, editor of the weekly *Ananda Vikatan*, was freed by an order of the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

Ban on magazine

Lagos (Reuters) — A leading Nigerian news magazine, *Newsweek*, was proscribed yesterday by the military Government after it published a confidential report on the country's future political system. The Government said it acted because the report had been illegally procured and its publication could cause disaffection. Lagos radio said security agents sealed the offices of the magazine in Ikeja in the outskirts of Lagos.

Smash hit for WHO

Geneva (Reuters) — World Health Organization employees yesterday smashed ashtrays in a ceremony to mark a ban on smoking which starts today at its headquarters to coincide with World Health Day.

Dr Halifan Mahler, WHO's Director-General, told staff: "As the world's conscience on health, we have decided to give a small example." He said that at least 1.5 million people died of smoking-related causes annually. There would be no sanctions against any of the organization's 1,300 employees who defied the ban, he added.

Hatred rejected as Herzog recalls hell of Belsen

From Richard Owen
Bergen-Belsen

It was an occasion dominated by grim memories of appalling suffering and inhumanity, with only some signs — at this stage — of the *Versöhnung* or "reconciliation" both countries are seeking. None the less, President Chaim Herzog's visit to the Belsen concentration camp memorial marked the beginning of the process.

"This is a very different place from the one I saw in 1945," President Herzog said quietly, recalling a day 42 years ago when he arrived to find "indescribable" scenes at the camp as a British Army intelligence officer. "I only pray we in Israel will prove worthy of the sacrifice."

President Herzog, born in Belfast in 1918, rose to become Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations

and was elected Israeli President four years ago. With the erect and silver-haired figure of the respected West German President, Herr Richard von Weizsäcker at his side, Mr Herzog said that grief over the death of 50,000 people at Belsen — Russians, Poles and gypsies as well as Jews — was eternal. But this grief was felt "not as perpetual hatred, but as a call to strength and steadfastness. We will never forget you," he said.

The official German party, including Herr Ernst Albrecht, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, wearing a skullcap, stood in sorrowful silence and solidarity. President Herzog, speaking in Hebrew, said the horrors of Belsen were "a call to understand the depths to which the human soul can sink and a call to rise above them."

"I do not bring forgiveness with me, nor forgetfulness," he said as he unveiled a monument carved from Jerusalem stone bearing in German, English and Hebrew the words of the psalm, *My sorrow is continually before me*.

It was President Weizsäcker's remarkable speech calling for German atonement and Jewish forgiveness in May 1985, and his visit to Israel later that year, that paved the way for President Herzog's visit.

The camp at Belsen is a windswept, deserted place set among the fir trees and silver birches of northern Germany. No building survived: all the huts, built to contain 100 people but by the end of the war overflowing with 1,000 each, were burnt to the ground in 1945 to stop the spread of disease. Now there are only grass mounds among the heather.

In an emotional meeting, members of the dwindling band of Belsen survivors, some from America and Israel and some from nearby Hannover, described the horrors of the last year of the war as the Germans retreated before the Soviet and Allied advances and pushed thousands of prisoners from Auschwitz and other overrun camps through the gates of Belsen.

"We were living dead among the dead," said Mr Henry Korman, describing the piles of corpses as he stood in a cold wind close to the spot where British troops found him. "We can forgive but never forget."

"Even now some Germans say Belsen was created by the British to blacken Germany's name," said his fellow survivor, Mr Eugene Lewi, breaking down and turning away. "How can they say such things?"

The dead, he said, were the victims of disease and malnutrition. The most brutal German guards were women. A cantor intoned the Jewish song for the dead, his impassioned wail drifting across the heather to the obelisk which stands by the long memorial wall to the Belsen dead. President Herzog intoned the Kaddish, the prayer for the dead, and walked with President Weizsäcker the length of the memorial wall with his head bowed. "The memory of the shocking sights will never, ever leave me," he said.

Inside the camp museum, documents record the reaction of the first British Army doctor to enter the camp, Brigadier Glyn Hughes. "No reports and no photographs can ever fully convey the ghastly sight which the camp presented," he wrote after supervising the burial of the 10,000 corpses Nazi guards had not had time to shovel into hastily prepared mass graves as the allies approached.

South Africans 'will fight for their heritage'

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

President Botha gave a warning yesterday, during a parade at Three Anchor Bay, near Cape Town, marking the 75th anniversary of the South African Defence Force, that South Africa would fight with all the power at its disposal "for the preservation of our heritage".

South Africans, he said, should remember that they were descendants of "brave and courageous men and women — pioneers in Africa", who brought "civilization" where there was barbarism, peace where there was genocide and bloodshed, freedom where there was colonialism.

In what appeared to be a deliberate move, President Botha, a former Minister of Defence, chose to stage the parade on Founder's Day, a national holiday commemorating the arrival in Table Bay in 1652 of Jan van Riebeeck, the Dutch ship's surgeon who founded the first white settlement in South Africa.

Mr Botha said that South Africa wanted peace, but there must be no doubt that "if others are seeking our downfall we shall fight with all the power at our disposal for the preservation of our heritage, for the safety of our communities and for a peaceful future for all in our country".

It was a cause for great concern that so many politicians in Western democracies were "either so glibly, intimidated, or anxious to climb onto a popular bandwagon" that they turned a blind eye to those who were manipulating the anti-South African campaign.

He said: "South Africa has always been willing to come to the help of her traditional Western allies in times of war. In the two world wars and the Korean war, 25,000 South Africans paid the supreme penalty in the interests of Western civilization."

This is a rather remarkable example of selective memory. Mr Botha did not mention that he and the National Party opposed South Africa's participation in the Second World War, and that many of its members openly sympathized with Nazi Germany.

The military parade was accompanied by a fly-past by air force jets, a "sail-past" by 12 surface naval vessels and two submarines and a mock aerial attack by the Air Force on naval vessels in Cape Town harbour. Holidaymakers jammed the quays to watch the display.

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Relief supplies allowed into Chatila camp



A tank of the Lebanese Army's Sixth Brigade watching over a convoy of lorries in Beirut loaded with Kuwaiti emergency supplies before they were allowed to enter the besieged Palestinian refugee camp at Chatila yesterday.

Suspension of Malta riot squad demanded

Police accused of 'frenzy'

From Austin Sammut, Valletta

The suspension of members of Malta's police riot squad was demanded yesterday as two National Party supporters were said to be under intensive hospital care with wounds suffered in an allegedly frenzied armed attack in Rabat.

Mr Joe Vella, aged 45, and Mr Mario Pavia, aged 19, were hit under fire from "Special Purpose Automatic and Shotgun" (SPAS) in the hands of members of the police Special Mobile Squad (SMU), or riot squad.

Mr Vella, who is said to be on the verge of death, was hit from the back in his head, neck, thorax, buttocks and arm by 9 mm bullets. Mr Pavia suffered two gunshot wounds which penetrated his lungs, diaphragm and liver.

Many other people were wounded in what was described by one as a "wild frenzy" by the 50 or so handpicked people forming the SMU.

No member of the police was reported injured in the incident, which occurred near the local Nationalist Party club soon after the party leader, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, had left it.

Dr Fenech Adami yesterday demanded an independent inquiry into "the attempted homicides carried out by a few chosen policemen", who should be suspended.

He said there were people who "had an interest to create serious incidents and to obstruct the electoral process". He said the SMU had driven to Rabat singing slogans in favour of the Prime Minister, Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, and on their way down from the town. He said they had also refused to obey an order to withdraw given by the Deputy Police Commissioner. A recording was then played in which members of the police corps were said to be heard chanting political slogans in favour of both party leaders on their car radios that evening.

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Space lab misses its connection

From A Correspondent
Moscow

A tiny laboratory crammed with important and expensive equipment was floating in space yesterday after failing to dock with the Russians' orbiting manned station, Mir.

Western experts in Moscow say the malfunction in the research module's steering system is a setback to the Soviet Union's hitherto successful space programme.

However, they think it may be possible to retrieve the now orbiting laboratory and to attempt to dock it with Mir.

Kvant, as the module is known here — it means quantum — is carrying x-ray observation equipment which was produced jointly by Birmingham University and the Russians. It also has communications equipment and life-support systems on board.

The official newspaper *Pravda* yesterday gave a dramatic account of how the two cosmonauts on board Mir looked on helplessly as the 19ft by 14ft Kvant began to drift away from them.

Kvant was the first in a series of five modules scheduled to dock at Mir, which the Russians intend should become the world's first permanently manned space laboratory.

The two cosmonauts have been aboard Mir since February 8. Western observers expect they will try to stay in space for 290 days, breaking the current record of 237 days.

Reagan-style Republican woos black vote

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr Jack Kemp, a former professional football player and conservative in the Reagan mould, formally entered the presidential nomination race yesterday, setting off a battle for the minds of the Republican right wing.

His hopes of victory rest on his record as a political replica of the President. Unlike Mr Reagan, however, he is seeking to win support from minority groups, a somewhat quixotic aim since relatively few blacks vote in presidential primaries.

The former San Diego Chargers' quarterback supports the Nicaraguan Contras, is enthusiastic about Star Wars and opposes trade protectionism and abortion. He claims he would sever all diplomatic ties with Nicaragua, repeal the 1945 Yalta Agreement as

a signal that the US did not consider East Europe to be forever within the orbit of "the Soviet colonial empire", and dedicate his presidency to preserving Western standards.

Mr Kemp, aged 51, is a long-shot contender, but could inflict serious damage on Vice-President Bush's nomination campaign by attracting most of the right-wing vote. Senator Paul Laxalt, who has yet to declare formally his candidacy, will also appeal for conservative support.

Mr Bush has been playing to right-wing audiences for some time, while trying to keep his middle-of the road support. He remains the front-runner, followed by an increasingly popular Senator Robert Dole, Republican leader in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Mr Kemp is low in the opinion polls because

he lacks the exposure enjoyed by Mr Bush and Mr Dole. Mr Bush, however, continues to be dogged by the Iran-Contra affair, while Mr Dole is getting invaluable media coverage from legislative battles between congressional Democrats and the White House.

Three prominent black supporters accompanied Mr Kemp when he announced his candidacy, reinforcing his bid to attract minorities. He did not go so far, however, as to demand tough sanctions against South Africa. His aides took careful note of the boing that greeted Governor Pierre "Pete" du Pont of Delaware, another Republican hopeful, when he declared support for tough moves.

Mr Kemp claims that his ability to broaden the Republican Party "is exceeded by no one except Ronald Reagan".

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Mr Kemp, on the Republican right, entering the presidential race yesterday.

Botswana witchcraft fear sparked riots before royal visit

From Andrew McEwen
Gaborone

Botswana, traditionally southern Africa's most placid nation, surprised itself on the eve of the Prince of Wales's current private visit with a rare display of intolerance over a subject much after his heart — alternative medicine.

An appeal for calm over Botswana radio by the President, Dr Quett Masire, was broadcast 20 hours before the Prince's arrival last week, following three days of unrest.

Apparently unfounded suspicions of witchcraft, directed against a traditional African herbal doctor, led to three days

of rioting in a poor area of Gaborone, the capital. The arrest of a radio producer over reports of the riots touched off a demand by students at the University of Botswana for permission to strike, which was refused.

This led to a sympathy demonstration, mainly by unemployed youths. Police using riot shields fired tear gas for the third night running.

"No one can really believe it's happening: our people just do not behave like this," said Mrs Margaret Nasha, director of information.

The mobs apparently refused to believe that Mrs Wilhemina Direlang, a *sungoma*

(traditional doctor) working in the down-at-heel Bonding suburb, was not connected with the disappearance of a child. Even when the girl, aged five, turned up unharmed, the crowds continued to besiege her home. They were still not appeased when police arrested a child-theft suspect, a girl, aged 17, said to be suffering from a psychiatric disorder.

The incident revealed that, despite efforts to upgrade the image of what were once called witch doctors, strong feelings remain.

"Some people thought the little girl had been cut up and put into a pot," a senior diplomat said. He went on to

balance his observation with: "A lot of perfectly intelligent people feel that alternative medicine should not be dismissed without a trial."

The Prince might well include himself among the latter but while camping in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve he will be relying on Western medical back-up if needed.

Even the Gaborone Government acknowledges that African doctors are gaining respectability. "In the past, people consulted them secretly, now they are quite open about it. Many people consult both an African doctor and a Western one for the

same complaint," Mrs Nasha said.

The point was confirmed by Botswana's most senior traditional African doctor, Mr Boitshepo Balole, aged 69, president of the Dingaka Association (or Doctors' Association). "People come to us because they see we cure illnesses even when Western doctors fail," he said.

The Dingaka Association's 491 members are required to maintain some none-too-demanding standards. Mrs Direlang, the object of the riots, is not among them.

The Government recognizes an understanding between the Association and Western doc-

tors allowing patients to be mutually referred. In practice, it is a one-way agreement. "They do not like us very much," Mr Balole confessed.

African doctors have not helped their case by making claims that Western doctors find outlandish. Mr Balole told *The Times* that he could cure cancer, AIDS and virtually every other illness.

Whatever the truth of the claims, Mr Balole and his colleagues have folk opinion on their side. A taxi driver swore he knew of a woman who had been cured of AIDS, while others showed a willingness to filter a grain of truth from a welter of exaggeration.

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Build-up to Turkish election

Ozal facing challenge over economy as he aims for another term

From Nicholas Beeston and Rasit Gardilek, Istanbul

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, who received a rapturous homecoming last week from thousands of his party faithful after an eight-week absence for a heart bypass operation, faces a tougher reception from his countrymen as he prepares for a general election.

Political pundits in Ankara predict that Mr Ozal, the leader of the Motherland Party, will begin electioneering this month for a close contest and that he may call an early election in November, a year before his five-year term expires.

Although the Government has dismissed this possibility, *Hurriyet*, Turkey's biggest-selling daily, has cited a sudden jump in prices and the high inflation rate as evidence that Mr Ozal had relaxed his tough fiscal policies and introduced an election economy to suit early polls.

"Ozal will be chiefly judged on his economic performance, so if the economy looks set to be healthier this year than in 1988, then he may call a snap election," said one political analyst.

To his credit, Mr Ozal has led Turkey since 1983 through its most stable political period for nearly 30 years. According to opinion polls, if an election was held today the Motherland Party would be returned to power with 35 per cent of

the vote, the minimum needed to form a majority. But the main opposition, the conservative True Path Party under the stewardship of Mr Suleyman Demirel, the former Prime Minister, has scored by-election successes at the expense of the Motherland Party, even throwing Mr Ozal on the defensive in his field of expertise, the running of the country's economy.

Mr Demirel and other former leaders are banned from taking part until 1992 under an electoral ruling announced by the military Government before the changeover to civilian power four years ago.

However, Mr Demirel's



Mr Ozal: earned praise for handling of Aegean crisis.

popularity and the progress of his party has embarrassed the Government and given rise to further speculation about the undemocratic nature of the general election.

The opposition is also likely to capitalize on allegations that the Government has deviated from the country's secular principles and has been too accommodating to Islamic fundamentalism.

They will point out that poverty is still rife in Turkey's remote rural areas while the rich in urban centres in the west have enjoyed a boom under Mr Ozal.

However, Mr Ozal managed to turn the dispute late last month with Greece over oil exploration rights in the Aegean to his advantage, and the compromise reached with Athens was hailed by the Turkish press and public as an important foreign policy victory for the Government.

Another foreign policy initiative which could win him popularity will be the application by Turkey to join the EEC, which is expected within the coming weeks.

Despite some tough economic decisions that Mr Ozal will have to make, Western diplomats predict that he will be returned to power, albeit with a slimmer majority, so long as he avoids any major pitfalls in the coming months.



Herr Walter Wallmann, left, the triumphant leader of the CDU in Hesse, receiving formal congratulations from Herr Holger Börner, outgoing SPD state governor, after the election.

Kohl team to rule in Hesse

From John England Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats and their Free Democrat partners in Hesse began planning yesterday to form the first centre-right state government later this month after 40 years of Social Democrat rule.

The two parties inflicted a slim but devastating defeat on the SPD and its Green allies in Sunday's election with a two-seat majority for the state assembly. The Greens increased their share of the vote, but not sufficiently to compensate for big SPD losses in the party's worst result since

state polls began in 1946.

The new Prime Minister in Hesse will be Herr Walter Wallmann, aged 54, currently the federal Environment Minister. Dr Kohl yesterday named Professor Klaus Töpfer, the state Environment Minister of Rheinland-Palatinate, to follow Herr Wallmann in Bonn.

The Chancellor called the Hesse victory an "important signpost" for federal policies, as national SPD leaders held an inquiry into their third successive state poll disaster. The party did badly in Bavaria and barely held its ground in January's federal elections.

In Hesse, the SPD lost in

big cities - including the formerly "Red" Frankfurt, where the CDU captured all five seats. The party also lost votes to the Greens and suffered a boycott of the polling booths by many traditional supporters, who rejected its alignment with the anti-nuclear ecologists.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD Opposition leader in Bonn and designated future party chairman, promised: "The fight will go on." The party faces further state polls next month in Rheinland-Palatinate, a CDU stronghold, and Hamburg, where it lost a majority last November.

Brandt's departure, page 14

Papal plea for dignity in prisons

Antofagasta (AP) - The Pope visited a Chilean jail yesterday, the last day of a pilgrimage marked by violence, and called for better jail conditions worldwide.

National police troops stood behind 300 male and female prisoners assembled in a roped-off patio here to hear the Pope say: "Christ was a prisoner, too." He urged better jail conditions throughout the world "to give more dignity to inmates, as persons, as children of God."

A jail official said 14 of the inmates were political prisoners. Relatives of inmates had claimed earlier that some political prisoners were transferred just before the Pope's arrival to avoid another of the highly-charged encounters that have marked his visit.

The Pope arrived in the northern desert town on Sunday night and was due to leave for neighbouring Argentina after an outdoor religious ceremony here yesterday.

About 400 political prisoners, including some at Antofagasta jail, said last week they were ending a hunger strike in response to a plea from church officials. Some had been fasting as long as 38 days to protest at jail conditions and to get their cases transferred from military to civilian courts.

Spy case - Libyan flees to Uganda

Nairobi - A Libyan diplomat based in Kenya has fled to Uganda after being named in a Nairobi court as trying to recruit local students to spy for Libya (Alastair Matheson writes).

A former student of Nairobi University, Mr Nelson Ochiri, admitted in court last week that he had given information prejudicial to Kenya to the Libyan. Mr Wanis Ali Mesellary, it was alleged that Ochiri and four other ex-students had been paid 20,000 Kenya shillings (about £810).

The prosecution said that Mr Mesellary wanted the students to set up a dummy company in Mombasa as a front for Libyan espionage on US naval activities.

Hotel blaze

Mbabane (AFP) - A fire destroyed the casino area of the government-owned Protea Hotel about 40 miles outside Mbabane, 24 hours after another fire gutted the Royal Swazi Hotel in the capital.

Belly landing

Rome (Reuters) - A Danish Boeing 727 airliner with 174 passengers on board made a belly-landing at Rome's Ciampino airport when its front wheel failed to descend, but no one was hurt.

Death penalty

Doha (Reuters) - Drug traffickers face a maximum penalty of death under a new law issued in the Gulf state of Qatar.

Fleet visit

Karachi (Reuters) - A US Navy battle group led by the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk arrives here on Thursday for a five-day visit.

Writer's prize

Paris (AFP) - The third Ritz-Hemingway literature prize, worth a record £31,250, has been awarded to the American, Peter Taylor, for his novel *A Summons to Memphis*.

Bald rush

Rotterdam (Reuters) - About 8,000 bald Dutchmen have rushed to join a hospital's tests on a hair restorer, but most will be disappointed because only 200 will be chosen to smear the gel on their heads.

Chicago's voters likely to keep black Mayor in office

From Charles Bremner Chicago

Mr Harold Washington, Chicago's first black mayor, is set to win a second term in office in elections today after a bruising campaign among a divided Democratic Party.

All opinion polls showed Mr Washington as favourite to win the mayoral vote over Mr Edward Vrdolyak, his fellow Democrat, and Mr Donald Haider, a bitter foe and a Republican.

On Sunday a third rival Democrat, Mr Thomas Hynes, dropped out of the

race, effectively conceding defeat to Mr Washington, aged 63, who has a near-monopoly of the city's huge black vote and support from many whites for his efforts to reform the Democratic Party machine built up by the late Mayor Richard Daley.

America's third city, Chicago has a tradition for tough "punch 'em in the nose" politics that belies the outward sophistication of its post-modernist skyscrapers, its orchestras and art galleries.

"I'll break his neck with one little finger - he's a twerp," Mayor Washington said of

one rival council member a fortnight ago. Another council member is running his campaign for re-election from the city jail, where he is awaiting trial on corruption charges.

He would not be the first to win election here from prison.

"Elections here are like the ritual aggression of the beasts in the forest," said Mr Eugene Kennedy, a local political observer and biographer of Mr Daley, who died in 1976 after a 20-year reign as a virtual dictator.

Chicagoans say they subscribe to "reverse federalism", the doctrine which holds that

local politics is more important than national. Being mayor is more coveted than being President of the United States.

Mr Daley's spiritual successor, Mr Vrdolyak, is still boss of the local Democratic organization, the remnants of the Daley machine, and until last year he managed to marshal a majority of Democrats in the City Hall opposed to Mr Washington.

He chose to drop out of the race for the Democratic nomination in February and to run for the Illinois Solidarity Party, a tiny organization

founded a few years ago by a local politician.

Any hope that Mr Vrdolyak had of unseating Mr Washington failed last Monday when Mrs Jayne Byrne, his predecessor, endorsed the mayor's candidature.

Both Mr Vrdolyak and Mrs Byrne appealed to the white working-class and middle-class voters. Mr Vrdolyak, a hard-bitten lawyer with the larger-than-life style of George Raft, the actor, has a strong base among the heavy working-class ethnic population of Greeks, Croats, Hispanics and others.



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HEWLETT PACKARD

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Reagan signals early free trade deal with Canada

From John Best, Ottawa

President Reagan has given a strong push to the move for a free-trade agreement between the United States and Canada, calling it a demonstration of confidence in the ability of the two countries to meet "world competition".

At a dinner on Sunday night, after his arrival from Washington to begin a 24-hour visit to Ottawa, Mr. Reagan talked of the "grandeur" of the bilateral free-trade concept. He is optimistic that an agreement can be concluded this year.

Yesterday the President opened a second round of private talks with Mr. Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, at which the free-trade proposal, mutual defence, and other issues were expected to be discussed.

Later he was scheduled to

address a joint session of the Canadian Parliament.

It was Mr. Reagan's first trip outside the United States since the Iran-Contra scandal broke in Washington, and many observers saw it as a chance for him — in a small way — to reassert control over the direction of US affairs.

The visit gave rise to one of the largest demonstrations on Parliament Hill in recent years, with an estimated 4,000 people protesting against US policies on issues ranging from Central America to free trade and acid rain.

One group succeeded in taping a manifesto to the door of the main Parliament building, reminiscent of Martin Luther's propositions nailed to the cathedral door at Wittenberg, denouncing Canada-US free trade.

It began by affirming that Canada "was inhabited during thousands of years by aboriginal autonomous nations and has evolved into a truly sovereign state, having its own culture, values and way of life" and went on to warn that "a comprehensive bilateral free-trade agreement with the United States is bound to alter profoundly the very nature of our country".

Ardent Canadian nationalists argue that a free-trade deal with the US — now in the final stages of negotiation — would cripple Canada's cultural identity and undermine its political independence as well.

But Mr. Reagan, who with Mr. Mulroney launched the process two years ago, hailed the plan as "bold and far-sighted," adding that it would constitute a vote of confidence

"in our abilities to meet world competition with an unleashed ingenuity".

He looked forward to the day when California wines were available throughout Canada "without hindrance" and Canadian ale was "available to every American table".

In his talks with Mr. Reagan, Mr. Mulroney put forward a surprise proposal that Canada and the US consider entering into a formal treaty to reduce the emission of acid rain.

Control over airborne chemical pollutants from the United States has become a big political issue in Canada.

Mr. Reagan took note of the Prime Minister's suggestion, a Canadian official said. The President acknowledged that much of the acid rain in Canada comes from the US.

Eleven deny Manila death plot



Mr. José Aspiras, right, Philippines Minister of Tourism under deposed President Marcos, and General Jesus Singson, former Civil Aeronautics Administrator, standing in a Manila court yesterday to plead not guilty to plotting the murder of President Aquino's husband.

Mr. Aspiras and 10 others denied being in a plot to murder Mr. Benigno Aquino, leader of the opposition to President Marcos, and Rolando Galman, shot dead by guards at

July date for appeal on Wright memoirs

From Stephen Taylor Sydney

The British Government's battle to suppress the memoirs of Mr. Peter Wright, the former MI 5 officer, will resume in the courts of New South Wales on July 6. This date was chosen by the Appeal Court yesterday for an early hearing of the government appeal against last month's Supreme Court judgement, which effectively authorized the Heinemann company in Australia to publish Mr. Wright's book, *Spycatcher*.

Lawyers for both sides yesterday applied jointly to Mr. Justice Hope, sitting with two other judges, for an expedited appeal because it could normally take up to a year to come to court. Mr. Wright and Heinemann are meanwhile bound by undertakings not to divulge the contents of the manuscript.

The British appeal will be based on submissions that Mr. Justice Powell misinterpreted English law in finding that there was no contract between Mr. Wright and the Crown.

Meanwhile, it was confirmed yesterday that the Wright-Heinemann case will be argued in the Appeal Court by Mr. Tom Hughes QC, one of Australia's leading silks, who has specialized in skillfully argued appeals.

New Basque party sets independence as its goal

From Richard Wigg Madrid

The new centre-left Basque Solidarity Party has declared its aim as achieving an independent Basque state by peaceful means, reuniting the region now divided between Spain and France.

The call for independence — long advocated through violent means by Eta, the

Basque armed separatist organization — went down badly in Madrid yesterday as bordering on the unconstitutional.

Señor Carlos Garaicoechea, the former Basque Chief Minister who heads the new party, offered Madrid his party's "willingness to establish associative links with other nations", meaning the rest of Spain and France.

He managed to get the party, holding its first conference at the weekend in Pamplona, to water down its initial call for "full independence" without any links with Madrid whatever.

He appealed to Eta and the Popular Unity Coalition, its political wing, to renounce the use of violence to obtain nationalist goals and so respect the majority wishes of the Basque people.

Señor Garaicoechea, still one of the most popular Basque leaders, also won party approval for a programme to allow Basque women the right to abortion on demand.

The Basque Solidarity Party won 13 seats in the regional party after its leaders broke away from the veteran Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) last autumn.

Troops help guard vital railway to Mozambique port

In the second of three articles on Malawi, Michael Hornsby reports on a significant shift in the country's foreign policy as it struggles to retain its reputation as a haven of stability in a region in turmoil.

Foreign observers in Lilongwe, the capital, say that an undisclosed number of Malawian troops are helping to protect the railway to Mozambique's port of Nacala against attacks by rebels opposed to the Government in Maputo.

At the end of last month the insurgents, most commonly known by their Portuguese acronym, Renamo, issued a statement in Lisbon warning Malawi's Dr Banda that he would "suffer the consequences" and "pay a high price" if he took this step.

Until recently Malawi, the southern third of which is surrounded by Mozambique

near the town of Dedza. The first big refugee influx occurred in late September and October of last year when Renamo rebels captured several small towns in central Mozambique.

Paradoxically, the Renamo forces involved are thought to have been ones expelled by Dr Banda after Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique threatened to close their borders with Malawi, which is entirely landlocked, if he continued to shelter the insurgents.

The ultimatum was delivered at a meeting on September 11 when President Machel, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, visited Dr Banda in Blantyre. A week later President Machel talked of installing missiles along Malawi's border. Further details of a planned blockade or invasion of Malawi by Zimbabwe and Mozambique were in a document which the South Africans found in the wreckage of the air crash in which President Machel died on October 19.

A second big influx of refugees occurred in February and early last month, after a counter-offensive against Renamo by Zimbabwean and Mozambique forces.

Under Mr. Machel's successor, the urbane and pragmatic Mr. Joaquim Chissano, who lived for some years in Malawi while on the run from the Portuguese, relations have been much smoother. In December a security agreement was signed by the two countries.

The Malawi Rifles, as the country's small army of about 6,000 to 10,000 men is known, looks splendid on the parade ground, but has not seen combat since the Second World War.

They are said to have established three camps along about a third of the Nacala line close to the Malawi border. "The operation seems to involve more than simply riding shotgun on any trains sent down the line," according to one foreign observer.

Malawi's ability to police its long border with Mozambique — little more than a cartographic fiction dreamt up by colonial administrators — and to stop Renamo units from coming across to rest and resupply themselves must also be questionable.

Tomorrow: Finance problems

Odinga warns Kenya of slide towards tyranny

Nairobi (AFP) — Mr. Oginga Odinga, the former Kenyan Vice-President and opposition leader, has broken a long silence with a strong attack on the Government over its record on human and constitutional rights.

In a signed statement distributed to the press here on Sunday, Mr. Odinga accused the Government of President Moi of sliding towards tyranny and using detention without trial to silence opposition.

"It is a sad state of affairs to hear of incidents of people dying while allegedly in the hands of our police force," he

said, adding: "Coupled with this is the present trend whereby people are held incommunicado for months and subjected to brutal and inhuman indignities."

"It is, therefore, not surprising that our record of human rights violations is causing great concern to our people and friends abroad."

The former Vice-President, himself an ex-detainee, was apparently provoked into breaking his silence by allegations in court here that he was a senior member of Mwa-Kenya, a clandestine opposition movement fighting the Government.

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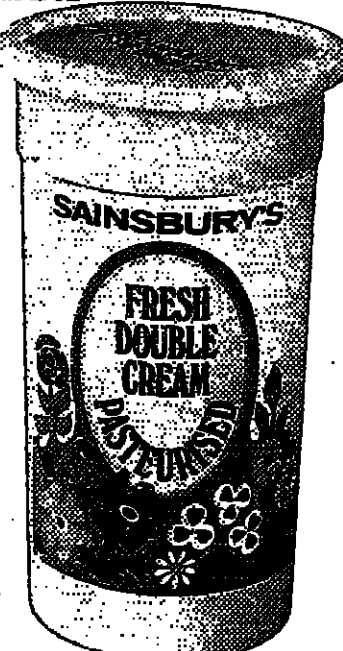
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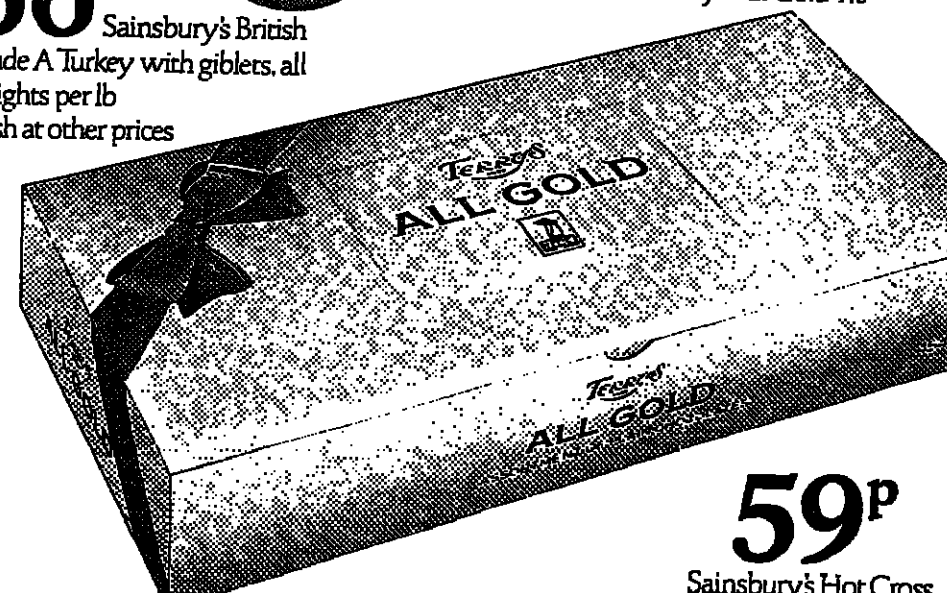
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FASHION

Emerging from the chrysalis

The new
spring knits
are a breath
of fresh air.
Simplicity is
the key, writes
Suzy Menkes

Like the first cuckoo or the bleat of a new-born lamb, casting off a cardigan used to be a sign of spring.

But now spring knits sprout with the crocuses and light-weight sweaters have become a style for all seasons.

The rise of the cotton knit from sportswear to high fashion has taken a brief five years. Now the same variety of style, pattern and colour found in woollen jumpers appears in the cotton knits sold at all the mainstream stores. Specialist knitwear designers continue to push back the frontiers of the possible, and make spring knits magic carpets of stitch-craft or shapely tubes of colour.

Simplicity is the keynote of the most stylish sweaters which are cloustrated tunics or brief boleros made to be worn with the fancy-shaped skirts. The bubble, the harem skirt gathered into a hem at mid-calf, or the wrapped and draped skirt (that you tie up according to choice) all demand the plainest of top halves.

Colour, bright or fondant pale, makes a strong statement in the spring knits, where natural and ecru are challenged by poster-paint red, a new jade green and the yellows, mauves and deep pinks looking like bunches of freesias. Marks & Spencer have cotton sweaters — classic short-sleeved and square shapes — in royal blue, jade, red or white at £16.99. Next's sweaters are sweeter, incorporating patterns of flowers or embroidery on neck and cuffs (from £18.99).

At the other end of the price scale are the hand-knits, made with the same care and skill familiar for wool sweaters. A silk and wool mix, or even pure silk, makes a delicate alternative to cotton. The hand-knit designers also work to high-fashion shapes, and Edina Ronay's latest summer lines are moulded to the body, in contrast to the sportier, over-sized sloppy sweaters of previous seasons.

Patricia Roberts has a fine range of summer-weight yarns and patterns in her three London shops (including the new one opened last week at Brompton Cross). The yarn companies have responded to the lead of the knitwear designers, and those who want to make their own garments can

now buy patterns plus cotton or even linen yarns over the counter.

The newest shapes to look for are the long tunics, the fitted cardigans and the cropped bolero tops that form a stylish partnership with this season's high-waisted skirts.

After several seasons out on its own, the plain crew-neck sweater is being worn again in layers, over a roll-neck or polo-collared fine knit, or under a bolero or ultra-long cardigan. In tune with the new

soft and more romantic mood, rounded or petal collars peep out from under the neckline.

This new look also suggests a narrower, unpadded shoulder line. Necklines are widening to a boat-shape or may even fall gently off the shoulder.

The sweaters do not have to be in natural fibres: for as well as the familiar acrylic knits found in the high street, man-made fabrics are also being taken up by high fashion designers. A knit with a sheen

is now positively fashionable, and rayon in a close machine-knit is used for pretty vest-shaped tops.

Skirts also come in shiny materials and transparent fabrics. The veiling of the legs under a long skirt is a modest and attractive look, with long sweaters covering the hips. Skirts also come with narrow sunray pleats, in full circles or dirrads, and some of them in softly patterned fabric. They are the regular alternatives to the more whimsical shapes —

bubbles, handkerchief points and asymmetric hemlines.

Even if those hemlines are not yet rising very far, heels are getting higher. A generation which has worn only trainers and ballerina flaties, will find that the new low-shaped heel works well with the neat knits and gentle skirts.

The mood is quiet and makes an appealing way to emerge from a chrysalis of winter woolies into the cotton knits of spring.



Above: Oatmeal cotton cardigan, £17.99 from Marks & Spencer. Floral skirt, £25 from Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Paisley scarf, £10.99 from Next branches. Pearl necklace, £75 from Cobra & Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, SW1. Blonde straw hat, £35 from Whistles, St Christopher's Place, W1.

Centre: Silk and cotton sweater, £278, lace skirt with silk lining, £228, both by Edina Ronay from 141 Kings Road, SW3 and Liberty. Chiffon scarves, £7.95 from Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1. Pearl bracelet, £15 from Cobra & Bellamy. Satin ballet pumps, £8.99 from Gamba, 3 Garrick Street, WC2.

Left: Cropped silk cardigan, £103 by Tina Shaw from Whistles. Leopard, £9.99 from Gamba. Chiffon skirt, £165 by Georgina Von Etzdorf from Lord's, Burlington Arcade, W1. Elasticated "Body band", £8.95 from Fenwick. Silver necklace, £111 from Liberty.

Hair by GIANNI Make-up by REGINA HARRIS
Photographs by TONY MCGEE

PEOPLE

Auction dazzle

Italian fashion got the highest bids at the Windsor jewel sale. Big Spender Shirley Bassey opted for all-black but most of the jet-set ladies tried to out-sparkle the jewels. The Duchess of Windsor's friend and confidant Hubert de Givenchy sent elegant models and haute couture dresses to present the gems to the 2,000-strong audience. But while the Baronne Edmonde de Rothschild was in French haute couture, the princesses Maria Gabriella and Marina of Savoy dressed home-grown Italian. So did the Saudi princesses, lined up in Versace and Valentino on the first night and in fluffy and glittering Kristin Swearingen the next day. Liz Taylor, bidding over the air waves from her Hollywood swimming pool, presumably wore her designer bikini along with waterproof diamonds. There was stiff competition for wearing the largest rocks in the striped tent at the auction, but the prize must go to Baroness Thyssen-Bornemisza, with chandelier earrings of sapphires and diamonds scraping her shoulder-pads.

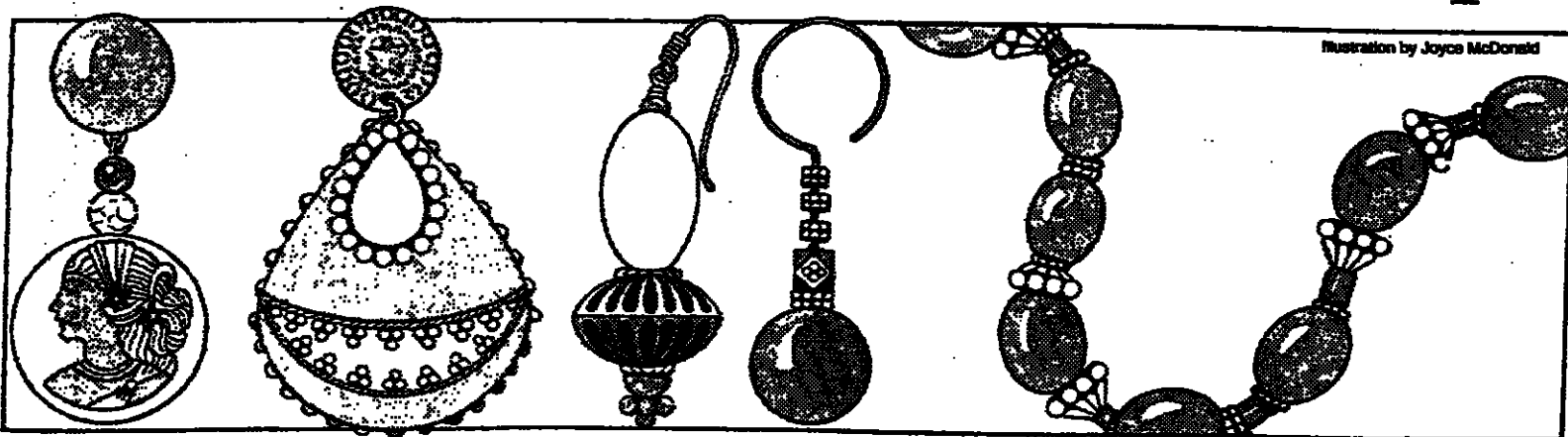
China coup

Simpson staged something of a coup by getting the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr Hu Dingyi, to cast his inscrutable eyes over its Silk Sensation fashion show last week. Perhaps our designers Jasper Conran, Caroline Charles, Paul Costelloe and Roland Klein will soon be able to lift the bamboo curtain and stage fashion shows in China, following in the footsteps of Pierre Cardin and Yves Saint Laurent.

Blue magic

The old blue magic of denim returns to our television screens once more next week. Wrangler is launching a major advertising campaign subtly extolling the virtues of granite-wash, stone-wash and stretch to fit. Unlike the famous Levis campaign set in the 1950s, Wrangler jeans are thoroughly modern, for thoroughly modern boys and girls. The heroes and heroines of the three ads play out scenarios of the besuited, the art student and the alternative bachelor in his pad. Each tells a story of the Wrangler customer leading a full artistic life clad in blue denim. Would-be Nick Kamen will be pleased to hear that the models involved have raised their rates and lowered their availability already.

Silvery treasures from the deep



Left to right: "Old coin" verdigris earrings, £3.95 from Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1. Filigree pear-shaped earrings, £7.50 from Extras at Hyper Hyper, Kensington High Street, W8. Silver and ivory earrings, £70 from a selection at Antiquarius, Kings Road, SW3. Unpolished silver earrings, £25 and beaten silver choker, £111, both from the fine jewellery department, Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

All that glitters is not gold this spring. Jewellery designers have followed a raft of floating chiffon and lace into the shops, with delicate silver jewellery to replace the glitzy rocks of winter. The treasure chest of ideas comes from India, Africa and the bottom of the sea.

An African fertility necklace with heavy, unpolished silver charms from Liberty's fine jewellery department sells alongside ancient beaded Navaho chokers and amber necklaces from the Baltic. Antique earrings with mixtures of silver and ivory beads come from Africa: originals are anything from 70 to 100 years old, but cheaper copies have richly coloured beads to pick up fabric colours for this spring.

To complement her ethereal chiffons and silk floral skirts, designer Georgina Von Etzdorf is selling spherical silver earrings on delicate twists or chains — coloured with midnight blue or bright green. Her clothes and jewellery are available from Lord's, Burlington Arcade, W1.

Jewellery designer Jennifer Corker has looked to the bottom of the ocean for inspiration for her verdigris (green of Greece) sea horse and circular fish earrings. The metal is chemically treated to

The new jewellery casts a silvery light over this season's silk and chiffon

give it a delicate blue colour that looks the result of many years under the sea. Her designs are on sale at Whistles branches in London, Academy, Newborough Street, London, W1 or from her at 18/17 Trafalgar Square, Colborne Road, W10. Other verdigris jewellery comes from Fenwick where there are earrings like Roman coins, strung with coral and turquoise.

A more sophisticated, but equally pretty collection comes from Kiki McDonough at 16c Grafton Street, W1. Silver-grey lacematis is mixed with silver in twisted ropes as bangles and necklaces; and silver is tarnished to a darker colour for a heart-shaped pendant studded with gold polka dots.

Deborah Boyd White has used natural charms on silver chokers: soft, oxidized silver is moulded into shell shapes with seed pearls and moonstones. When gold does appear in her work it is rose or white and mixed with unusual stones like labradorite (similar to moon-

stone but with greener tinge). Prices start at about £70, and there is an exhibition of her jewellery starting on Saturday at Godfrey and Twait Contemporary Crafts, 7 Westminster Arcade, Parliament Street, Harrogate.

Another exhibition starting this month, on April 16, is Jewellery and Precious Metals, at the Design Council, Haymarket, SW1. The exhibition features unusual pieces submitted by students for a competition held by the Goldsmiths Company. Winning entries include a necklace and earring set formed from silver and gold cones, and minute acrobat earrings with shovable arms and legs.

Scotland's glory in Country Life.

Scotland and all things Scottish have always featured in the Country Life Book of the Year. Reproduction of the book is now available in paperback for £9.95. The book is a collection of 100 pages of photographs of the country life in Scotland. Contact Niall Lister: 01-261 5401.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Less said the better

Labour is keeping quiet about what dreamed up its poster campaign, launched yesterday. The "Less said, the better" slogan is certain, however, to have been approved by its Shadow Communications Agency. This is a voluntary group of admen sympathetic to Labour, including Deborah Martinson and Philip Gould and others who wish to remain anonymous for fear their agency bosses would object. The use of "less" rather than "fewer" has already attracted sneers. But it is hardly worse than Labour's 1983 slogan thought up by adman Johnny Wright: "Think positive. Act positive. Vote Labour." Meanwhile, the party's well-oiled Central Office machine has moved up a gear in preparation for the election. A memorandum from deputy party chairman Peter Morrison cancels until further notice the extra day's leave traditionally taken by party workers on the Tuesday after a bank holiday Monday. There are two such Tuesdays in May.

Away from it all

David Steel delivered a perfect riposte to journalists who quizzed him on David Owen's prediction of a May election as he stepped off a plane from Portugal yesterday. Echoing Jim Callaghan's notorious reported comment on arriving at Heathrow in the winter of discontent, Steel asked: "Election? What election?"

Lost cause

Conspiracy theorists on Labour's left have been working themselves into a lather over the Orwellian disappearance of a defence resolution from the verbatim record of last year's conference, which has just been distributed. The missing resolution passed with the support of 5.2 million votes — calls on a Labour government to transfer money from defence to welfare and industrial development. As rumours grew that the leadership was not merely dumping the resolution but pretending it had never been passed, several prospective Labour candidates and Ron Hazzard, secretary of Labour Action for Peace, wrote to Walworth Road demanding to know what had happened. The explanation proffered? A clerical oversight, now put right by an erratum slip.



No free dinner

As the chairman of some of Britain's largest companies, including Hanson Trust, Barclays and Cadbury Schweppes, line up at a dinner this evening to pay tribute to 30 years of the Institute of Economic Affairs, some might end up regretting the eulogies they have penned for the occasion. Once the IEA deputy director, Graham Mather, has finished reading out their contributions, he will ask them to put their money where their mouths are, to the tune of £600,000. The lease on the institute's Westminster offices runs out in 1988 and Mather tells me he is anxious to convert the goodwill into enough hard cash to buy the freehold. Don't forget your cheque books, gentlemen.

Off course

Yugoslavia's Red Pilot theatre company has had an inauspicious start to its proposed visit to the London International Festival of Theatre. A visit to London's Riverside Studios by its general designer, Miran Malhar, was curtailed after a week when he was summoned home by the government to answer for a poster promoting Red Pilot's youth campaign. Someone had noticed the poster's use of blood. Angry-looking youths and denounced it for its "fascist" leanings.

Open admission

Accounts of Mrs Thatcher's heart and mind-winning performance on Soviet television have so far omitted the subsequent programme in which her interviewers were themselves quizzed. While some critics objected to their inability to stanch her flow of argument in support of capitalism, others complained that some interviewers "behaved like bullies and interrupted all the time." One commentator compared interviewer Vladimir Simonov to "a country bumpkin chess player, playing with Kasparov." Simonov pleaded in mitigation: "The problem is we have no experience. Glasnost is not like an electric light you switch on and off. We all have to learn."

PHS

Alan Hamilton considers the change in attitude to mental illness after yesterday's disclosures about two of the Queen's cousins

Royalty's unspoken fear

When Prince John, youngest of the six children of King George V and Queen Mary, died at Sandringham in 1919 at the age of 14, his mother wrote to a friend: "For him it is a great release. I cannot say how grateful we feel to God for having taken him in such a peaceful way; he just slept quietly into his heavenly home, no pain, no struggle, just peace for the poor little troubled spirit."

The Queen, generally portrayed as a starched collar of primness and rectitude, could not entirely contain her sorrow at the death of a son, even one who was retarded and epileptic, and who passed his brief and tragic span in decent seclusion at the Royal Family's Norfolk home.

Prince John comes at once to mind because of yesterday's disclosure that two elderly members of the Bowes-Lyon family, nieces of the Queen Mother and cousins of the Queen, had lived for years in a mental hospital when the outside world believed them to be long dead.

Little is known of John, except that he never appeared in public and that his parents' view of life was the very antithesis of easy-going warmth and the acceptance of new ideas. It is widely conjectured that it was a reaction to his parents' coldness that drove their eldest son, David, to abdicate in favour of a woman who would dominate and mother him.

And yet they cared for poor, hapless little John. They kept him out of public view, but they did not send him away to an institution; for all his difficulties, they kept him within the bosom of their, admittedly, large and well-staffed family.

Queen Mary, for all her apparent unworshipfulness, had direct experience of the mentally disturbed. Before her marriage to Prince George she had been engaged to Prince Albert, Duke of Clarence, who although not obviously mentally ill in the accepted sense, was an oddball and a dunce. When he was a teenager his tutor reported to his father, Edward VII, on "the abnormally dormant condition of his mind."

Albert was not shut away, and indeed occasionally accompanied his parents on state visits, including one to Ireland. But there was unspoken relief when he died of pneumonia at the age of 28 and the succession passed to his brother George, leaving poor Prince Eddy's memory tainted with the suspicion that he might have been Jack the Ripper.

Madness, illegitimacy and divorce are the three skeletons that rattle loudest in the royal cupboard. Fears of madness stem largely from the condition of King George III, the present Prince of Wales's favourite monarch, who had a bout of madness, or so his ministers thought. There was great



Katherine Bowes-Lyon, 40 years in a mental hospital, and her parents, Feneila and John

rejoicing in the land when the King was pronounced cured.

Modern opinion suggests that the King was not mad but suffering from an ailment known as porphyria, in which a chemical upset in the blood can cause such symptoms as bulging eyes and manic depression. It has been speculated that the Duke of Clarence suffered from the same complaint.

The House of Windsor has suffered little from cases of mental instability, unlike some continental dynasties, most notably the Habsburgs and the Bourbon-Parma. Prince Robert of Bourbon-Parma sired 24 children by two wives, and the first six of them were mad.

But a residual fear must always exist. The blood succession is all, and the system is weakened if the direct line has to be diverted from its path to avoid passing the crown to someone unsuitable.

Had the Duke of Clarence outlived his father Edward VII, a constitutional crisis would have been precipitated, but his fatal pneumonia provided an escape route for all concerned, just as Mrs Simpson provided an escape route for the unhappy and unsuitable Edward VIII.

What is so surprising about the revelation of the two members of the Bowes-Lyon family who became long-term mental patients is not that their unhappy fate threatens to rock the fabric of a constitutional monarchy, for although they are cousins of the

Queen, they are remote from the fulcrum of influence. The surprise is that the secrecy surrounding their confinement to a mental institution does not accord with modern liberal thinking on mental health.

The greatest fear of families which harboured a mentally ill member was that lunacy was entirely hereditary; thus did they hide them away. This fear has not been entirely dismissed, but it has been greatly diluted by modern psychiatric medicine, a science which dates only from the early years of the present century. Yet it is difficult to shake it off entirely.

The Bowes-Lyons have a particular reason for fearing mental illness in their family, although it must be remembered that most large families have at least one member who has suffered from it. But the Bowes-Lyons live with the memory of Thomas, son of the 11th Earl of Strathmore, who haunted Glamis Castle more than any ghost of Macbeth.

Thomas, according to family legend, was born hideously deformed, with tiny arms and legs. He was severely mentally handicapped, but lived to the age of 100, although the 1841 *Debrett* said he had died on the day he was born. Throughout his life he was kept locked out of sight in a wing of the castle, and his existence was never mentioned by any other member of the family.

What is unusual about Kath-

erine and Nerissa Bowes-Lyons is the fact that the family felt the need to cover them up, to blot them from the record of *Burke's Peerage*. But it must be remembered that they entered mental institutions many years ago, when we were perhaps not as enlightened as we are now. Secondly, there was no elaborate conspiracy; the Bowes-Lyon family returned the corrected proofs of their entry for the 1963 edition simply with the names of the two women deleted and, according to today's proprietors of the genealogical bible, the editors of the day assumed the deletions to mean that they had died.

A better mental health service, born from the 1959 Mental Health Act which gave everyone a right to mental hospital treatment on the same basis as ordinary medical treatment, has in a way made it easier to cope with mental handicap in a relative, simply because it is easier to have troublesome relatives "put away."

It is a two-sided coin; for the curable mentally ill, there is a much better chance of treatment and return to normality. For the incurable, they will be tolerably well looked after, and need be no burden on their families.

There was not such an easy option for the parents of Prince John. The boy at least lived his short and troubled life surrounded by his family. Who is to say who — a young Windsor or an elderly Bowes-Lyon — was the better off?

Ben Pimlott

Red scare with a black tinge

Last week John Biffen denounced what he called a development of municipal socialism "which must be abhorrent to those who hitherto have carried the standard for Labour in our big cities — people like Herbert Morrison". David Owen added to the lexicon of politics by dubbing the ruling groups in Hackney, Islington and Greenwich the "lethal left"; and (but for an eleven-hour recantation) the SDP would have publicly attacked Islington's Labour council for allegedly accusing a five-year-old child of racism for reciting *Baa Baa Black Sheep* — for good measure.

With the bombardment just beginning, the major domestic target for the anti-socialist parties has been fixed: inner city authorities that have been characterized as left-wing.

What is left-wing? It is a relative term. "Left" was used during the French Revolution to describe the physical position of some members within the semi-circular assembly. It was first widely employed in Britain in the 1920s, since when its meaning has been ever on the move.

At its most basic, to be on the left is to be more young at heart, progressive, passionate and keen for change than others. There cannot be many ambitious members of the Labour Party who have not, at some time in their lives, claimed to be on the left. Four of the six post-war Labour leaders came from the left, building their power base on left-wing support.

There are conventional reasons to explain why all, thereafter, changed from poachers into gamekeepers: ambition. *Realpolitik*, even (the M15 version) the need to hide secret subversiveness beneath a moderate facade. Yet the biggest factor has been psychology. The difference between Labour's left and Labour right has had more to do with culture, tribe and kinship than with enduring distinctions of policy. Issues come and go: states of mind stay constant. One of the most consistent traits of the left is hostility to designated authority. Hence the rapid rejection of anybody elected to high office.

The battle is mainly about teams and territory. If left-wing means egalitarian and interventionist, then the most left-wing government in Britain to date was led firmly from the right. It is amusing that Mr Biffen should compare Herbert Morrison favourably with his municipal successors. In the 1945 Labour forecast, *Reading, Religion and Rain* are the three Rs of the British weekday morning, to which we have all been conditioned.

In general, time and history have been on the side of the left. The wildest outcasts have often been vindicated in the end. One name that has cropped up recently

is that of Aneurin Bevan. Long ago canonized by the Labour Party establishment, Bevan has now, in a clever biography by John Campbell, been incorporated into the SDP pantheon as well. Today, Bevan is presented, even by some Tories, as part of the legitimate democratic left, in contrast to the modern totalitarian left of the municipalities. Yet, in his day, nobody was more vilified by the Labour leaders even expelled him, Derek Hatton-style, from the party.

The red scare has always been a useful tactic at election time, on a par with things that go bump in the night. Bolsheviks, Communists, Bevanites, Bennites, Trots, Ghoulishes and Ghosties all serve similar functions. In 1924, Tories forged the Zinoviev letter to scupper Labour's chances; in 1931, Philip Snowden, the turncoat Chancellor of the Exchequer, called Labour's programme "Bolshevism run mad"; in 1945, Churchill warned that Labour was planning a socialist Gestapo. Against this background the nursery rhyme slur seems comparatively mild. And, indeed, it would scarcely be worth a mention were it not for the grim new dimension of race. In London particularly, the urban left in politicians' speeches has increasingly come to mean councils with members of Asian or Afro-Caribbean descent. The modern bogey man is black.

Nobody in touch with the energetic and talented progeny of Commonwealth immigrants will be surprised or alarmed that they should at last have produced their own angry tribunes. Nor is it remarkable, after a generation of frustration, that the new black politics should take the form of cultural nationalism. What is disturbing is that experienced politicians should use the bitterness expressed by the ethnic minority leaders to feed racial prejudice in the public at large.

It is not going to be a clean election, as the opening gambits show. But Labour would do well not to react to every piece of mud. The appropriate response to attempts to identify Labour with a conspiracy of hard, loony, extreme, ultra or lethal left is a refusal to be riled or to shift ground an iota. Labour's ratings are unlikely to be improved if its only defence against a hostile salvo is to unload ballast — a tactic that has recently been proposed.

There are many reasons for Labour's electoral crisis, but being excessively left-wing is not one of them. There can be no easy remedy for Labour's current misfortunes, but socialist pride would be a banner worth defending.

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Henry Stanhope

Moralizing over the marmalade

An estimated one and a half million people tune in every morning to *Thought for the Day*. It is a curious BBC custom, this quiet period between the drama of *Today's Papers* and the weather forecast. *Reading, Religion and Rain* are the three Rs of the British weekday morning, to which we have all been conditioned.

It started as *Life Up Your Hearts*, an invocation which reflected a more evangelical approach to the business of quietening down commuters. This became *Ten to Eight*, whose breezy anonymity smacked of vicars in open-necked shirts. The present title sounds like a compromise between the Ancient and Modern among us.

But my own special Thought for Today is for those souls who have to present it. Delivering spiritual comfort to the nation in almost its darkest hour demands a missionary zeal which might even have eluded Dr Livingstone. One is asking a society on the move to pause in its tracks — in the manner of one who is trying to sell life insurance to the leading runner in the London Marathon.

Few people are entirely without thoughts at ten minutes to eight in the morning, but these tend to be frivolous or ignoble. I think, for instance, that I would like to be back in bed or about how many days there are till Saturday. I wonder if I need another razor blade or why the bath's cold tap keeps dripping. It is an idle private world which I inhabit at that, otherwise, ungodly hour.

Not only that, but when the BBC says "Thought for the Day" it means it. I suppose they are, strictly speaking, Thoughts of the Night Before. In fact the thinkers have to telephone the studio around 11 pm to win editorial approval for their script. (When they say on the BBC that the producer comes next in line to God they're not joking). But the thinkers then have to recite their pieces live, often responding to late developments in the news. Half-an-hour's browsing through a book of old sermons is never enough to get one by.

Now anyone who has visited a broadcasting studio at that hour in the morning will know that presenters and producers regard the news or any other "written and read" set-piece on the programme

as a welcome chance to get on with something else, like rearranging the schedules, rehearsing their next set of questions or even sneaking out for a coffee. Attention to the person who is doing his stuff is less than rap.

For a clergyman who is used to having a captive congregation when he preaches, this can be quite disconcerting. His flock might not all be listening all the time. But at least they're not running around with scraps of paper, rabbiting behind his back or carrying in plastic cups of tea. One recent newcomer to the *Thought for the Day* slot complained later that no one in the studio had been listening to his homily, and had to be reassured that thousands throughout the country had been clinging to every word in between gulping their muesli, searching for their shoes or checking the price of their British Telecom shares.

That is why the BBC regards *TTFD* as a job for experienced hands only, sometimes using *Prayer for the Day* (which is pre-recorded in a more cloistered calm) as a testbed for hopeful applicants before introducing them to the big time. Fame, though, is the spur which drives forward the chosen few.

His reputation as a cleric of the airwaves is considered to have done no harm at all to the Reverend Richard Harries, Dean of King's College London, recently galloped as Bishop of Oxford. Rabbi Lionel Blue's gentle charm and worldliness, as experienced through *Thought for the Day*, have opened the way to a cookery book (among others) and appearances on other devotional programmes such as the Wogan show. And who, half asleep on the Bakerloo Line, has not some subliminal knowledge of Rabbi Julia Neuberger and the Reverend Kenneth Slack?

Then shall our names,
Familiar in his mouth as household words,
Harries of King's, Redhead and Neuberger,
Blue, Slack and Westwood,
Harhill and Humphrys,
Be in their lunchtime cups
freshly remembered.
Why is it, incidentally, that rabbis seem the best of all at broadcasting? Now there's a thought.

As Brandt goes, Richard Davy assesses a party beset with problems

What hope for the SPD?

The poor showing of the West German Social Democrats in last Sunday's election in Hesse indicates that their problems go too deep to be quickly resolved by a change of leader. It has been too easy in recent years to blame the failing powers of Willy Brandt, who recently announced his resignation after 25 years.

When his monumental presence is removed in June the party will probably become better organized but it will still be a long way from getting back to power. Although it is more modern in its thinking than the British Labour Party, and electorally stronger, it suffers some of the same problems in trying to find its place in a changing political landscape where the signposts no longer point clearly to left or right and there is no dominant issue on which to ride back to power. The German economy is doing well and cannot be challenged on fundamentals. The electorate is not ready for any major new departure in foreign policy. The power of the old industrial unions is declining and party loyalty is weakening. Most threatening of all, the radical young are turning more and more to the Greens, whose confusing mixture of ecology, nuclear disarmament and general political rebellion puts them outside the central consensus rather than merely on its fringe.

In this new territory Brandt had lost his bearings as well as his drive. His great strength had been his ability to integrate the party. In his best years he held the confidence of the industrial workers, party functionaries, left-wing intellectuals and the radical young.

This was because for him the party was not about dogma but about social justice, decency, comradeship and the redemption of Germany after the war. He is the last of the great post-war leaders who was shaped by experience of the Nazi period, the fights that preceded it, and the struggle that followed it, and the struggle to build democracy in the ruins of a divided country. He joined the party in 1930. After underground resistance and exile he was wooed back into politics as a modernizing, anti-communist supporter of NATO and as someone whose open-mindedness could help heal divisions in the party.

When he became its leader he



Brandt: after the great days, leaving just in time

turned out to be all these things. If, in his later years, he was accused of being too open to the idea of co-operation with the Greens, this may have been partly the sentimental return of an old man to the radicalism of his youth but it was more a calculated attempt to keep the doors of the party open to restless young idealists who would stimulate new thinking in the SPD and eventually join their predecessors as moderate members of the centrist establishment. But this approach does not entirely fit the Greens because they are not just another version of the old or the new left and cannot be so easily integrated. Nor is co-operation with them at all easy.

So far the Social Democrats have found no effective way of meeting the challenge of the Greens. If they draw a clear line of confrontation they lose younger voters; if they open the door they lose their traditional support. Yet they cannot get back into power without a coalition partner. They have always been a minority party in the Catholic heartlands of West Germany, having lost large areas of their traditional base to East Germany. They came to power in 1969 only because the Free Democrats decided to join them in coalition in order to support the opening to the East.

Thus, unless some major crisis engulfs the Christian Democrats, the SPD's only hope may be the emergence of another major issue such as *Ospolitik*. But no such issue is in sight. *Ospolitik* itself, that historic monument to Willy

Brandt's leadership, has become a central expression of the German national interest, taken for granted by the young and largely accepted by NATO in spite of some flickering worries that it could go too far or that it distorts German priorities. It has now been adopted by the Christian Democrats, who once opposed it.

So ordinary has it become that it is difficult now to remember just how bitterly it was contested at the time by Germans who saw it as a betrayal of their claim to re-unification and the lost frontiers of 1937. In 1972 it nearly brought down the government. But Brandt and his colleagues had seen, what now seems obvious, that the old policy of refusing to recognize East Germany and the Polish frontiers was not only failing to bring re-unification any nearer but was actually consolidating the Soviet hold over Eastern Europe by reducing contacts and enabling Moscow to use West German territorial claims to justify the Warsaw Pact.

Since 1972 *Ospolitik* has set West German diplomacy free in Eastern Europe. Increased contacts between the people of East and West Europe, especially East and West Germany, and given the East far more problems than the West. Perhaps it could not have been done earlier, before West Germany had won the trust of its Western allies. Nor could it have been done so effectively by someone with weaker credentials than

Willy Brandt: his anti-Nazi past made him acceptable to the East while his record as governing mayor of West Berlin made him trusted in the West. He had never had illusions about communism. In his youth he had seen the communists join forces with the Nazis against the Social Democrats and later sign a pact with Hitler.

In Berlin he had confronted daily the military realities of Soviet power and the political realities of East Germany. But he could see that although Soviet military control of Eastern Europe could not be challenged, the internal weakness of the communist systems meant that the West could only gain by increasing contacts. He saw this at first hand when, on his visit to East Germany in 1970, huge crowds gathered to shout "Willy, Willy".

For him there was also a strong moral element in seeking reconciliation with the Russians. Poles and others who had suffered so much at the hands of the Nazis. On that memorable occasion when he fell to his knees at the monument to the Warsaw ghetto where the Nazis had massacred thousands of Jews, his own feelings came together with his country's political interest in trying to reduce the bitterness and danger of confrontation.

Some Social Democrats are now anxious to take *Ospolitik* further with talk of new security relationships and even de-nuclearization, but at the moment this is not a vote-winning issue. Perhaps around the next corner lurks a major new debate about the defence of Western Europe. It has already begun in a small way and it could take off if the US commitment seems to weaken or if Gorbachev's reforms go far enough to create the basis for serious discussions about a new European security system. If so the Social Democrats might snatch the high ground.

For the moment, however, such thoughts are premature. The Social Democrats seem condemned to opposition until the Free Democrats switch again, which does not look imminent, or the Greens either fade away or become more orthodox, both of which possibilities seem fairly distant. Willy Brandt is probably leaving just in time. His reputation from his greater days still generally intact.

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BATTLE FOR THE CENTRE

Grim posters of resource-starved hospitals rise above the roads in Labour's target constituencies for the general election which looms and recedes with each day's interpretation of the opinion pollsters' numbers. The Alliance parties yesterday launched a health policy. Hardly a day now goes by without one of the opposition parties launching — and sometimes relaunching — a new policy as a rehearsal for the set-piece bombardments of the campaign itself.

As the Alliance rise in the polls continues, the Labour Party is caught not only by the deep-seated strategic error that we discussed here yesterday but in an immediate tactical trap too. To have any chance of regaining the ground which it has lost in the last six weeks, it must stress the moderate centrism of its policies on matters which are of most salient concern to floating voter of that moderate centre.

Every opinion survey reaffirms that health services are among the most important concerns of this group. Yet, to put it starkly, these are issues which are of as great an importance to the middle class — the core of Alliance support — as to the working class which remains the core of the Labour vote. Labour's problem is that it has no obvious "edge" or advantage to present to voters whose natural first preference may be now by the Alliance.

This is an age which values the principle of public provision (at least in health) but which has grown sceptical of

simply providing money for the old, demand-led systems to consume. Labour's policies (for all that they appear caring) emit the sounds of creaks and groans as old dogmas are stretched and bent to fit new circumstances. As ever, they seem to be dominated by the narrow interests of the public-sector health unions.

The Alliance is less fortunate in one sense. It has no bedrock of ancient loyalties to sustain it when the electoral pressure is on. But it is also luckier. It carries less history to weigh it down.

Mr Simon Hughes MP used his freedom of manoeuvre yesterday to suggest a levy on private patient beds. This presumably extends the line of thinking first drawn in *The Times* Has Come by Dr Owen and Mr Steel. "We accept the existence of private medicine providing it does not exploit the NHS," they wrote.

Mr Hughes's levy appears to be a token payment from the private sector as compensation for the training of nurses and doctors and for the research and development which the NHS currently provides for the private sector free of charge. The plan is ill-conceived and does not bear the marks of much thought. But at this time in the political cycle that may not be of great consequence.

The plan does have important public relations benefits. It looks new. It is against "exploitation". And it has the extra advantage of charging companies rather than individuals even though, if im-

plemented, it would eventually be paid for by private patients in the shape of higher premiums.

In other respects, the Alliance has played safe. It quarrels with the Government's assertion that increases in health service spending can come at least partly from further efficiency savings — a pitch that will go down well with those employed in the health service itself.

By pitching its spending slightly above the Government's, the Alliance can also use the leverage provided by the widespread perception that the government has cut health spending. It can do so, moreover, while giving few hostages to fortune over public expenditure as a whole.

The Alliance is riding high today. Few voters doubt the decency of Labour's intentions towards hospital patients (or to the unemployed). But they question whether the premises on which greater public provision by a Labour government rests can be believed. Can revenue be raised? Can the health unions restrain wage demands? Will a more productive economy deliver the extra margin for greater resources?

The unmistakable message of the rise in the Alliance's poll ratings at the expense of Labour is that an increasing number of people are shedding these grandiose illusions for more realistic aims. Those latter targets are ones with which the Government can conduct a debate of substance.

END OF AN ENTENTE

Last week France expelled three Soviet diplomats for spying. The Russians expelled six Frenchmen in response. What! Six for three, said the French public. At which, in a show of openness worthy of Mr Gorbachov himself, their government suddenly came up with another three and conceded that the score was really six all.

The moral of the tale is not that a little diplomatic dissemblance does not pay: so far as France is concerned, it has paid handsomely for many years. While Britain has suffered periodic bouts of tit-for-tat expulsions that mean just that, France has been able to dispatch unwanted Soviet diplomats with no apparent damage to the Franco-Soviet entente.

The moral is not even that in espionage, as in other things, the new Soviet style is (when it suits the Kremlin's purposes) for honesty; nor yet that the Soviet government must have been especially angered by the exposure of one of its crack teams at the European space project, Ariane. No, the moral is rather that France can no longer get away with it. The special relationship, long regarded with envy from London and Bonn, is apparently at an end.

The entente has, in fact, been in difficulty since the accession of President Mitterrand. A nominally socialist government, continu-

ing with France's independent nuclear deterrent, pursuing policies which in many respects contradicted Soviet (and other people's), ideas of socialist policies was probably not what Moscow had in mind when it hailed the Socialist's victory in 1981.

Nor were the political compromises — some chosen by President Mitterrand, others thrust upon him — likely to find approval in Moscow. Soviet leaders have in the past shown a preference for dealing with strong, predictable Western leaders. They have forged some of their more successful relationships with Republican presidents and Conservative prime ministers. Knowing the enemy is important to the Kremlin. President Mitterrand has, by common acknowledgment, proved one of the most unknowable of French — and European — leaders.

The problems were compounded first when the Communists left the coalition, and then when the Socialists lost the parliamentary elections, leaving a socialist president with a conservative prime minister. Yet it was probably not the political complexion of the resulting administration — the fact that the tide of history had demonstrably turned against the left — that perturbed Moscow so much as the uncertainty inherent in cohabitation.

In France, despite industrial and student unrest, cohabita-

tion has been accounted something of a success, though that may be a reflection less of its achievements than of the low expectations that accompanied it. Abroad, it was by and large welcomed as an accurate reflection of French aspirations for socialist policies tempered by the discipline of the market and the requirements of individualism. Given the consensus that has governed French foreign policy since the war, no change was anticipated.

Yet French foreign policy is not the same as France's stature abroad, and there is evidence that cohabitation may, with time, erode France's considerable diplomatic influence. There has been genuine confusion as to who has the last word on foreign relations: Premier Chirac or President Mitterrand. Visiting dignitaries are steered towards both. Words and deeds have been at variance, and not only on Middle East terrorism. Foreign visits have to be handled with delicacy. Two voices may be better than one at home, abroad, they are a liability.

In deciding to treat France as just another West European country, Mr Gorbachov may have sensed this diminution of authority. In which case, is he perhaps seeking another West European collocation-in-chief? Or, after Mrs Thatcher's successful visit to Moscow last week, has he already found one?

THE PICKETING OF GRACELAND

Tonight the American musician, Paul Simon, performs the first of his London concerts at the Albert Hall. Each is built around his African-inspired record, *Graceland* which used black African musicians to make an international best seller. Each will be picketed by protesting anti-apartheid groups.

The reason for the disruption is depressingly clear. The Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) and the African National Congress (ANC) are united in their opposition to Mr Simon because, they say, he has broken the 1980 United Nations embargo on cultural contacts with South Africa. His offence was to visit Johannesburg and record part of *Graceland* there.

Some four million copies have subsequently been sold around the world, more than one million of them in this country. The eleven concerts taking place in Britain and Ireland belong to a world tour on which Mr Simon and his group of black fellow musicians have been consistently playing to packed houses.

Meanwhile the UN sub-committee which monitors the cultural embargo, is awaiting a "categorical assurance" from Mr Simon that he will not return to South Africa. His reply will probably determine whether his name will be added to the register — the

unofficial black-list of those who have broken the rules.

Those are the facts. The arguments behind them are more complex. Mr Simon protests that he went to South Africa only after the black musicians' union there had voted in favour of cooperating with him. Those musicians who had worked with him on *Graceland* have been, he says, well paid and been given a share of the royalties both for writing and performing on the record.

His contact in the country had been with black people, whose music he has popularized abroad, creating a demand which should continue. What has he done wrong?

The opposition of the ANC and AAM is founded on two main objections. One is that the South African government uses any visit to its country to demonstrate that the boycott is not working. It particularly likes contacts with its black citizens because, say anti-apartheid workers, these suggest to the world that the climate has become more liberal.

The second point made by Mr Simon's political critics is that once somebody breaks the rules others will swiftly follow. Mr Simon might have associated only with black musicians but others might not be so scrupulous. The boycott has

to be complete or it might collapse.

They also argue that Mr Simon was inspired by the profit motive — and so presumably were those blacks who have joined him. Others in (and outside) the province have been practising self-denial in the interests of their cause, and it would hardly be fair to them if concessions were made for one group.

These arguments have a familiar ring. They also miss the point that an extremely large number of people inside and outside South Africa are unlikely to agree with them. The arts cannot flourish in isolation. There are talented young black musicians in South Africa who need room in which to communicate and expand. The demand for their skills, which *Graceland* is helping to create, should also build bridges between them and young people abroad — stronger bridges than any politicians could construct.

Blacks need helping in South Africa, in positive, practical ways. *Graceland* could have become — indeed could yet become — a symbol of that help and the hope which this might bring. The demonstrations which are taking place this month are ill-conceived, ill-timed and can only damage their cause they are supposed to serve.

Target practice vital in trade war

From Dr Jennifer Corbett and Professor Colin Mayer

Sir, It is a cause of some concern that the retaliation currently being contemplated towards Japan is in direct conflict with a primary motive for liberalizing financial markets. This is indicative of the inappropriateness of the course that is being pursued. Little is achieved by erecting barriers against firms which have alternative opportunities. The concern in this case is that the dependence of London as a financial centre on the presence of Japanese firms may be at least as great as that of Japanese banks on access to the City.

Still more fundamentally, if the object of the exercise is to alter Japanese practices then more carefully directed retaliation is required. Since the beneficiaries of barring entry to Cable & Wireless are, in large part, firms in the Japanese electronics sector and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, it is they who must appreciate the costs of not liberalizing entry. It is a misperception of Japan to believe that, with consensus decision-making, interested parties cannot be separately identified from or within the government.

Involving the financial sector in a non-financial dispute is ham-fisted and risks creating insular attitudes and a sense of isolation among many Japanese. The long-term prospects of pursuing such approaches are bleak.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER CORBETT,
COLIN MAYER,
Oxford University,
Institute of Economics and Statistics,
St Cross Building,
Manor Road, Oxford.
April 3.

From Mr M. A. Tatum
Sir, In examining the possibility of imposing "back door" controls on Japanese imports, the Government has been seeking the advice of the French, who are Europe's leading exporters of the technique. However, in Thursday's issue (April 2) you suggest that support for such controls might be

waning due to our not being geared up for such a "red tape" operation, seemingly due to a lack of trained staff.

This, if it proves to be the case, would present an illuminating contrast between our own national attitudes and what I suspect those of the French would be in similar circumstances.

If faced with the same problem I rather fancy that the French would regard the lack of trained manpower to be a positive contribution towards the success of the cause, enabling them to express their profound unhappiness that, having taken a decision on a principle, it is now taking so long to implement it, and thus slowing down the unwanted imports even further.

Still, the French never did take to cricket did they? I sometimes think that it is a pity that we ever did!

Yours truly,
M. A. TATUM,
13 Turpin Road,
Aughton,
Ormskirk, Lancashire.
April 3.

From the Director General of the Cable Authority
Sir, Before we get too indignant about Japanese reluctance to see foreign companies playing too large a role in their telecommunications, perhaps we should look again at the situation at home.

UK law prevents public telecommunications operators who run cable franchises from being controlled from outside the European Community. The mischief of this restriction is that British investment is not keeping up with the need for expansion. By limiting foreign investment, the nation suffers.

The only gainers seem to be the lawyers employed to find ingenious ways around the law by those foreign investors with the persistence not to be put off by their apparent rejection by the legislature.

Yours faithfully,
JON DAVEY, Director General,
Cable Authority,
Gillingham House,
38-44 Gillingham Street, SW1.

Alcohol abuse

From the Director General of the Scotch Whisky Association
Sir, The President of the Royal College of Physicians is reported (April 3) as stating that alcohol abuse is a "common disorder in our community". The reality is that Britain is ranked 23rd out of 28 Western countries in terms of per capita consumption of alcohol and is one of the soberest nations in the world. According to Government figures, less than 2 per cent of those in Britain who drink have an alcohol-related problem.

This was not the only false impression given by the royal college in its recent report on alcohol abuse. There is, for instance, the assertion that amongst males aged between 35 and 65, in the UK, 25,000 premature deaths a year are associated with alcohol abuse. This assertion is based on a study undertaken in the Swedish town of Umeå, a seaport with far greater alcohol-related problems than the rest of Sweden (where they are great enough anyway), and the attempt to apply such foreign findings in the UK to back a convenient argument is wholly indefensible.

The producers of alcoholic drinks have absolutely no interest in encouraging anyone to abuse their product, and over-indulgence is unreservedly condemned by us as well as by the Royal College of Physicians.

Yours faithfully,
H. F. O. BEWSHER,
The Scotch Whisky Association,
20 Althol Crescent,
Edinburgh.
April 6.

Religious freedom

From Mr Hector Eduardo Luisi
Sir, You report in today's edition (April 1), not without a touch of sarcasm, that the "self-confessed" agnostic President of Uruguay warmly welcomed Mr Karol Wojtyla, the current holder of the office of Pope, at Montevideo airport, at the start of his 16-hour visit to Uruguay.

Your correspondent fails to mention that Uruguay itself has a very old history of secularism. The separation of Church and State was enshrined in the constitution in 1949. The Uruguayan Constitution in 1907 and liberal divorce laws were enacted as early as 1917. I am very proud indeed that my family were instrumental in bringing this about.

Not so long ago, the Catholic bishops of Uruguay, summoned to the Vatican, were admonished for having allowed Uruguay to have drifted into the hands of Satan! So although the "self-confessed" agnosticism of the Uruguayan President might come as somewhat of a surprise to your readers, the opposite would be highly alarming to most Uruguayans.

The result of this lay tradition has been that freedom of worship and wide tolerance for all religious beliefs has flourished over the years. If I may be allowed a modicum of nationalistic vanity, I would suggest that this is not a bad achievement for a Latin American country, or indeed for most countries around the world. Perhaps, even, to be emulated, rather than scorned, however gently.

Yours faithfully,
HECTOR E. LUISI,
26 South Eaton Place, SW1.
April 1.

Poles apart

From Lord Campbell of Croy
Sir, If, as Mr Price (April 2) suggests, the draft rules of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) required simply "those giving advice within these areas to make it clear whether they act for a company and its own products or are truly independent", there would be fewer problems.

"To make it clear" is part of the alternative system of "full disclosure" which I and others advocated as preferable to polarisation in the debate in Parliament on February 24. What the SIB rules require is complete separation of offices. A bank or building society manager would be able to discuss only a portion of

the products available and would have to be silent on the rest. The customer would have to turn elsewhere to obtain a complete picture.

A strict system of disclosure which demanded that every product which was connected with the manager's firm had to be clearly disclosed as such would enable the public to make their choices of products with full knowledge of the firm's special interest in some of them. It would also provide the continuing convenience of dealing with the managers they know to obtain financial advice.

Yours faithfully,
CAMPBELL OF CROY,
House of Lords.
April 2.

MEPs' lifestyle

From Mr Maurice Trowbridge
Sir, It is perhaps because the European Parliament is "over there" and not on daily view, as is the case with Westminster, that its relevance is widely undervalued, its work hugely under-reported and some of its activities — (*The Times*, March 20) — "fair game" for lurid stories in the British Press.

In debunking some of these journalistic flights of fancy, your correspondent, no doubt inadvertently, gave added credence to others, for example the widely publicised claim that MEPs spent £30,000 on telephone calls during a fact-finding visit to the French island of Réunion. The source of this allegation has since withdrawn it and apologised.

The article also made reference to the comparative "intellectual calibre" of UK MEPs and Westminster MPs. An odd thrust, bear-

ing in mind that 15 present or former elected MEPs are to be found on the Commons benches, representing over 18 per cent of the 81 elected MEPs. Given that a number of European members have already been selected to contest Westminster seats, this figure is likely to rise at the general election. And on the benches in Strasbourg one finds 13 present or former Westminster MPs, including ex-ministers.

Perhaps, 30 years after the signing of the Treaty of Rome, it is time to accept that Britain is in the European Community to stay and that an elected parliament is as necessary to a democratic Europe as is the assembly at Westminster to our national democracy.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. TROWBRIDGE,
Acting Head, UK Office,
European Parliament,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
April 1.

X-rays in the patient's care

From Mr J. E. Dussek

Sir, It is surprising that while the debate concerning the confidentiality of patients' written and computerised medical records continues, no mention is made of their X-rays.

As a chest surgeon I am almost totally dependent on seeing a patient's X-rays before I can decide whether an operation is necessary, and if so what type of operation should be performed. It is therefore frightening that for the majority of NHS consultations some, if not all, of the patient's X-rays will be missing. In fact I have done a complete clinic where not one patient's X-rays have been available. The most common reasons are that either the films are in another hospital or department, or more commonly are "lost".

X-rays need a large storage space and a large staff to supervise their filing. They are the bane of most hospitals and consequently they are usually destroyed after five or seven years. If all X-rays were given to the patients and made their responsibility very few would go missing. Patients look after their own medical data with a zeal unsurpassed by any hospital department. Further, it would mean that whenever a patient consulted a doctor his whole X-ray history would be available, whereas at present the doctor has to write to all the previous hospitals that the patient has attended to obtain the old films.

This simple expedient would save the health service millions of pounds and would put the onus of responsibility on the patient instead of poorly paid, often temporary and frequently uninterested clerks working usually in dreadful conditions.

Of course there would have to be exceptions for certain circumstances, but it is unfortunate that while most administrators in the health service can see the advantages of the system, none is bold enough to make the decision to make the patient the custodian of his own X-ray films. It works in the private sector, why should it not be tried in the NHS?

I am, yours faithfully,
J. E. DUSSEK,
Tebolds,
The Street,
Plaxtol,
Sevenoaks, Kent.
April 2.

Soviet weaponry

From Lord Kennet
Sir, You report (April 1) that Mrs Thatcher told the Russians that the Soviet Union "first brought intermediate nuclear weapons into Europe by stationing her SS20s" in the 1970s. This is not the case, and her belief that it was would explain much.

In 1950 American nuclear capable B29 bombers were stationed in Britain, and it was perhaps in the same year (their first test was in 1949) that the Russians armed their TU4 bombers with nuclear weapons.

In 1958 the Americans deployed Thor and Jupiter missiles in Britain and Italy, with a range of 1,725 miles. In 1959 the Russians deployed the SS4, with a range of 1,100 miles.

She is also reported to have complained of the Soviet ASAT (anti-satellite) capability and of the ABM (anti-ballistic missile) defences around Moscow. It may be she does not know that the Americans had an operational ASAT system in the mid-60s, but gave it up because it didn't work well enough.

She must know that the Soviet ABM system is permitted by the ABM Treaty and that the Americans had one, too, but gave it up because they judged it wasn't worth it.

Yours sincerely,
WAYLAND KENNET,
House of Lords.
April 1.

A woman's work

From Mrs P. Stewart-Moore
Sir, I am surprised that Lord Kilbracken (April 2), who is not commonly thought of as reactionary, should chauvinistically mock the housewife's role as scrupulously detailed in Legal & General's fascinating survey on the housework timetable. Amongst other criticisms the noble Lord claims that the Legal & General survey does not allow the housewife time for gossiping.

As a politician, he knows perfectly well that you can work and gossip at the same time.

Yours sincerely,
PENELOPE STEWART-MOORE,
14 Girdlers Road, W14.
April 4.

Price of liberty

From Mr J. Lipscombe
Sir, I live in a pleasant part of an unpleasant housing estate, typical of those in the run-down industrial areas of the Clyde Valley. An area, once prosperous on steel, coal and engineering, is desolate.

I have had the windows of my house broken four times in six months by gangs of sub-teenagers. The police can do nothing. When I go for my walks, the area is disgusting with litter and filth of every description.

If the price of liberty is to live in terror in a midden, I would vote for less liberty and more discipline, and I fancy your lords and masters in Westminster would too if they lived where I live.

Yours etc,
JAMES LIPSCOMBE,
60 Glenfruin Road,
Blantyre, Scotland.
March 25.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 7 1930

The Bombay Government thought that Gandhi's followers were getting out of control, and a month later he was arrested on the grounds that he was disturbing the peace of the country

MR. GANDHI SALT CAMPAIGN OPENED SCENES ON DANDI BEACH NO INTERFERENCE BY POLICE

(From Our Special Correspondent)

DANDI, APRIL 6
Mahatma Gandhi broke the salt laws of the Indian Government at 6.30 this morning. About a quarter of an hour earlier he had walked down the steps of his bungalow and been greeted almost reverently by some 4,000 followers who had gathered during the night, spending the hour before dawn in silent prayer alternated by Nationalist songs. Mr. Gandhi, wearing a loincloth, plunged into the sea, which is almost lukewarm here, and enjoyed a swim. After a few minutes he came out and, accompanied by his lieutenants, walked along the firm sand at the water's edge. Punctually at the half-hour ("the appointed time for beginning civil disobedience" throughout India") his companions advised him of the fact. Mr. Gandhi stooped down, scooped up a handful of sand and salt water, and returned to the bungalow with a broad smile on his face.

The great deed was done, at least from the technical point of view, for he had "collected salt" within the meaning of the Salt Tax Act. Shortly afterwards the 82 volunteers who had marched with the Mahatma from Ahmedabad received orders to carry on, and proceeded in military formation to a neighbouring creek, where the salt deposits are thicker than on the beach. The handful of salt collected by Mr. Gandhi was sold by auction for 428 rupees (£28).

Meanwhile, followers who had attended in the role of nightseers wandered aimlessly backward and forward on the sand. There was no political demonstration of any kind and no visible elation. Indeed, the general atmosphere suggested a large size in beach picnics that had fallen rather flat. The crowd had undoubtedly come to see the martyrdom of the Mahatma, and although the "triumph" over the British Raj was duly applauded it was the polite applause of a disappointed house that had expected a thrilling final curtain. There was not a single policeman in sight, and I have the best reasons to believe that orders were issued not to interfere with the proceedings. The martyrs therefore went about their job unmolested, save so far as a hot sun and brackish drinking-water may constitute martyrdom. It all seemed very futile, very childish, and, above all, very un-Indian.

MAHATMA'S SON ARRESTED

At a meeting this afternoon, however, Mr. Gandhi announced that his son, Mr. Ram Das Gandhi, had been arrested with five companions at Surat during the day on a charge of collecting salt. All six had been remanded, refusing bail. And there is another fact that gives a more significant side to today's picture. On my way back from Dandi to the camp at Jalapur I passed a rickety bridge over a creek which was almost dry. In the bed were gathered 156 volunteers from the neighbouring village, busily engaged in scraping salt from the deposits, piling it in mounds, and finally carrying it off in bags. The whole operation was carried out with military precision, under orders from a leader who gave a short blast on a whistle to mark each stage. Evidently the party had been carefully drilled for a long time.

In a short conversation after a meeting earlier in the afternoon, Mr. Gandhi elaborated some of the theories already expounded in his speeches along the march. He told me that he was attacking the salt tax first, because, "the barbarous British Government" was levying the tax on the poorer as heavily as on the millionaire. He proposed attacking what he called the most unfair of the taxes in due order, with the liquor revenue as his next immediate objective.

On larger issues the Mahatma was as vague as ever. When asked what substitute he proposed for carrying on the Government if taxes were abolished, he generously admitted that he had not worked out one in his own mind. "I know," he said, "that even an indigenous Government would find it difficult to run the country without taxes."

Tax point

From Mr D. L. A. Rushmore
Sir, The house in which we live is owned by my wife. She pays the mortgage. HM Inspector of Taxes requires my permission to enable her to claim tax relief.

I find this anachronistic if not stupid. My wife finds it insulting. What price equality?

Yours faithfully,
D. L. RUSHMORE,
Farthings, 3 Henfield Road,
Upper Beeding,
Steyning, West Sussex.

Grannies myth

From Mrs Marny Hallam
Sir, I am happy to report that my six-year-old grandson, upon seeing a "granny" as depicted in Mrs Clayton's letter (March 30), piped up loud and clear: "My granny's not a bit like that — she wears lipstick and tights and drinks gin and tonic!"

Yours faithfully,
MARNY HALLAM,
2 Bartholomew Close,
Argyle Road,
Newbury, Berkshire.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 6: The Duchess of York, Patron, The Tate Gallery Foundation, this evening attended a private view of the Turner Collection at The Clore Gallery in aid of the Foundation.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Director or the Foundation (Mr Sandy Gilmore) and the Director of The Tate Gallery (Mr Alan Bowness).

Miss Helen Hughes was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the new leisure pool at Queen Mead, Windsor, at 3.00.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will visit Lloyds of London at 12.00.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the National Rubella Council, will attend a luncheon at Marlborough House to mark World Health Day at 12.40.

The Duke and Duchess of York will attend a dinner on board SS Canberra at Southampton at 7.15.

Princess Margaret will attend the Television and Radio Industries Club's luncheon at Grosvenor House for the presentation of celebrity awards at 1.10.

The Duke of Kent, President of the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, will attend a reception at Lambeth Palace at 7.35.

Birthdays today

Mr Dennis Amis, cricketer, 44; Lord Ashburton, 89; Miss Fredda Brilliant, sculptor, 79; Professor D.R. Denman, land economist, 76; Mr David Frost, television presenter, 48; Mr F.L. Carter, former chairman, Pearl Assurance, 67; Lord Glendevon, 75; Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Hezlet, 73; The Marquess of Linlithgow, 75; Sir Hamish McLaren, electrical engineer, 89; Sir Ivo Mallet, diplomat, 87; Mr Cliff Morgan, head of Outside Broadcasting, BBC Television, 57; Mr Ian Richardson, actor, 53; Lord Ross of Marnock, 76; Sir Thomas Holmes Sellers, thoracic surgeon, 85; Miss Alison Shrubsole, former principal, Hornorton College, Cambridge, 62.

Memorial services

A memorial service for Mr John Grosvenor Beavor will be held at St Michael's, Chester Square, London SW1, on Tuesday, May 12, at noon.

A memorial service for Mr Derek Hari will be held at Chelsea Old Church at noon today.

Lord Trafford

The life barony conferred on Sir Joseph Anthony Porteous Trafford has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Trafford, of Falmer in the County of East Sussex.

Appointments



Sir Peter Newsam, aged 58, chairman and chief executive of the Commission for Racial Equality, who is to be secretary of the Association of County Councils on the retirement of Mr John Stevenson. Other appointments include: Air Commodore Peter Naz, Air Officer Commanding Air Cadets to be also Director of the RAF Directorate of Reserve Forces, which was formed yesterday.

Lord Olivier, Sir John Gleiged, Sir Alec Guinness and Mr Sebastian Coe to be vice-presidents of the Sharon Allen Leukaemia Trust.

University news

Bristol
Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following: LLD: M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, former Prime Minister of France; Professor H. Seidel, President of Hannover University; Mr D.A. Breach, Chairman, Bristol and West Building Society; Mr C.N. Clarke, formerly Chairman, Bristol and West Building Society; Mr R.N. Woodward, Chairman, Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust.

DLitt: Professor A. Cross, professor emeritus of German; Miss Julia Trevelyan Oman (Lady Strong), stage designer; Professor J.P. Vennart, classical scholar and author.

DSc (Eng): Mr D. Hammond, Vice-President, Hewlett Packard; Mr G.M. Lewis, Technical Director, Rolls-Royce.

MLitt: Miss Marga Schmitz, London director, German Academic Exchange Service.

MA: Mrs Marion Bennathan, principal educational psychologist for Avon.

MSc: Mr Kevin Tindall, retiring superintendent, department of physics.

Sussex
The following honorary degrees are to be awarded in July: Doctor of Laws: Professor Sir Denis Wilkinson, FRS, Vice-chancellor, University of Sussex.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: St Francis Xavier, missionary, Navarre, Spain, 1506; Charles Burney, music historian, Shrewsbury, 1726; William Wordsworth, poet laureate, 1843-50; Cockermouth, Cumbria, 1770; Gabriela Mistral, poet, Nobel laureate 1945; Valparaiso, Chile, 1889.

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Science report

Computers with a bedside manner

By Malcolm Brown

People who suffer from agoraphobia, a morbid dread of open spaces which often keeps them housebound for years, may be just as well off plugging themselves into a computer program to deal with the condition as they would be with a psychiatrist.

Researchers at the Institute of Psychiatry in London have just completed an experiment which pitted the skills of a psychiatrist against a computer and a self-help manual written by an expert on phobias.

The result: a dead heat. To the surprise of doctors and psychiatrists the human therapist was no better than either computer or book.

Dr Isaac Marks, professor of experimental psychopathology at the institute, and another psychiatrist, Raja Ghosh, took 71 patients suffering from various types of phobia, 40 of them agoraphobics.

Then, after an initial 90 minutes psychiatric assessment, randomly assigned them to psychiatrist, self-help manual (Marks's own book *Living with Fear*) and computer.

The idea was to take the patients through a course of what is known as exposure treatment - in simple terms the patients expose themselves to the things or situations they are afraid of and stay there until the discomfort dies down.

In the case of agoraphobics, they are persuaded to draw up a list of all the places that they avoid and then systematically each day go into at least one place for an hour or more until the ensuing panic gradually subsides.

All three groups in the experiment improved significantly by the end of the treatment and were still doing well six months later.

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OBITUARY

CHIEF LEABUA JONATHAN

Lesotho ruler whose opposition to South Africa was his undoing



Chief Leabua Jonathan, who died in Pretoria on April 5, at the age of 73, was Prime Minister of Lesotho (formerly the British protectorate of Basutoland) for 21 years before being deposed by a military coup early last year.

At first he was regarded as little more than a puppet of South Africa, on which his tiny country - surrounded by South African territory - had been almost wholly dependent economically.

For most of his career Chief Jonathan argued strongly that his country's geographical position dictated a policy of peaceful co-existence with Pretoria. In his later years as Prime Minister, however, his relations with South Africa became increasingly strained.

The point was reached where he seemed almost to delight in tweaking the nose of the apartheid Goliath on his doorstep - a dangerous pastime and one that proved his undoing.

Two issues came to the fore. One was Chief Jonathan's reluctance to comply with Pretoria's demands that members of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) should not be permitted sanctuary in Lesotho. This led to raids by South African commandos on suspected ANC houses in Maseru, Lesotho's village-sized capital.

The second was his decision - on the face of it an odd one for a staunch Roman Catholic who, in his youth, had been noted anti-communist - to allow the Soviet Union, North Korea and other communist bloc countries to establish a diplomatic presence in Maseru.

Matters came to a head in December 1985 when South Africa, alleging that ANC guerrillas were being allowed to use Lesotho as a spring-

board for attacks on targets across its border, subjected the kingdom to an economic blockade that lasted for three weeks, being lifted only after the military coup on January 20, 1986.

There is little doubt that South Africa passively supported the coup, if it did not actually engineer it. Pretoria was able to exploit discontent in the army high command, which considered Chief Jonathan's policy towards South Africa unduly provocative.

His change of course may have been an attempt to compensate for his lack of democratic support at home by striking anti-South African postures on the international stage. This brought some rewards in the form of foreign financial and development aid.

Born in 1914, Chief Jonathan was a son of Chief Jonathan Molapo and a great-grandson of Moshoeshoe I, the founder of the Basuto nation. After a rudimentary education at mission schools, he went, at 19, to work in the South African mines as a clerk.

He was recalled to Lesotho in 1937 to help administer the ward of a kinsman. The turning-point in his life came when he was appointed assessor to the judicial commissioner of Lesotho, Patrick Duncan, who persuaded him to enter politics.

In 1959 Chief Jonathan formed the Basutoland National Party. In 1964 he went to London with a delegation to demand responsible government. The demand was granted in the following year after a general election, which the BNP won with South African financial and organizational backing. Chief Jonathan himself had to wait until a subsequent by-election to gain a seat.

On July 5, 1965, he became prime minister, and Lesotho became independent on October 4, 1966. General elections were held again in 1970. When it became clear, as the votes were being counted, that the BNP was going to be defeated by the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) of Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, Chief Jonathan suspended the constitution, declared a state of emergency and put the King, Moshoeshoe II, under house arrest.

Thereafter he ruled by decree, while Mr Mokhehle and the BCP went underground, waging a desultory guerrilla war from South African territory. The King spent eight months in exile in the Netherlands, swearing an oath on his return not to involve the monarchy in any way in politics or with any political party or group.

After the overthrow by Chief Mesing, Lekhanya, Chief Jonathan faded into the shadows, being held under what appeared to be a form of house arrest.

He leaves a widow, Mantlhi, and four daughters.

MR HARRY WATT

ism of Watt's direction was counterpointed by the verse of Auden and music of Benjamin Britten.

With *The Saving of Bill Blewitt* (1937) Watt pioneered a new type of documentary which went part of the way towards the fiction film by using a story with characters, though the parts were played by non-professional actors, in this case Cornish fishermen.

His next important film, *North Sea*, took the idea further in extolling the value of ship-to-shore radio to a trawler cut off by a storm.

"The big film producers regarded us documentary people as a lot of long-haired, bloody Left-wing intellectuals", Watt later recalled. "But when the war came along, and we formed the Crown Film Unit for the Ministry of Information, we proved very useful indeed."

With the CFU he went on to make a series of vivid portraits of Britain at war: *Christmas Under Fire*, *London Can Take It*, *In Squadron 992* he reconstructed a raid on the Forth Bridge, and the part played in its defence by barrage balloons.

But his finest achievement of this period was *Target for Tonight*, a drama-documentary showing the whole organization of an RAF bombing raid over Germany, which was widely shown in cinemas and served as a morale booster.

From this it was a natural progression to feature films. His first, *Nine Men*, made for only £20,000, was a convincingly realistic story of soldiers stranded in the African desert, using a mixture of professional and amateur actors. Watt wrote the script as well as

directing, a practice he was to follow on all his subsequent pictures.

In 1945 he went out to Australia to find a subject that would reflect that country's contribution to the war effort. The result was, arguably, his best feature: *The Overlanders*.

Based on a true incident, it is the story of an epic cattle drive mounted under the threat of a Japanese invasion and echoed the American Western in its use of landscape and spectacle. He stayed in Australia to make *Eureka Stockade*, about the gold rush of the 1850s.

His next location was Kenya where, in 1951, he made one of Ealing's most popular films, *Where No Vultures Fly*, which was chosen for that year's Royal Film Performance Award. Again based on fact, it centres on the adventures of a game warden, played by Anthony Steel. There was a less successful sequel, *West of Zanzibar*.

His African trips nurtured in him an interest in wildlife preservation. He was given leave from Ealing to work as a producer for commercial television with Granada Theatres Limited. There he also found himself in front of the camera as the commentator in the *Zoo Time* series, introducing to viewers new arrivals at London Zoo and Whipsnade, and renewing old acquaintances.

He was then invited back to Ealing to make his - and the studio's - last feature, *The Siege of Pinchgut* (1959), a thriller shot in Australia.

His "irreverent memoirs" of his documentary years, *Don't Look at the Camera*, were published in 1974.

M JEAN-BAPTISTE DOUMENG

coarse, manner of speaking. He also remained true to the Communist Party he joined at the age of 16.

Despite the evident benefits he personally derived from the Common Agricultural Policy, he was one of the few Frenchmen who advocated its radical reform, arguing that it was bad for the farmers in his region.

His success in trading with the Soviet bloc was due to the excellent contacts he built up. He claimed, for example, to have known Mikhail Gorbachev for over 20 years; and indeed, in 1983, he predicted his rise to power, long before most people had ever heard of the man.

He also claimed to have

Sale room

Floral still lifes show movement

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY

★ Seats available
★ Returns only

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **COUNTRY DANCING:** Nigel Williams's play mixes class struggle, sexual enmity and rustic music. Good dancing.
Theatre, Garden Centre, London EC2 (01-628 8795). Tue-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, matinee Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £7.50.

★ **FROM MORNING TILL MIDNIGHT:** Inventive production of Kaiser's Expressionist classic. David Warner as the castle uninvited by cash.
Soho Poly Theatre, 16 Riding House Street, London W1 (01-638 9100). Tue-Sat 8.00pm, Mon-Sat 8.50pm, £2.75-5.50, plus £1 membership, until April 25.

★ **THE HEAT OF THE DAY:** See caption.
Donmar Warehouse, 41 Eastham Street, London WC2 (01-240 8230). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, £5-15, until April 25.

★ **OWNERS:** Revival of Caryl Churchill's first success; interesting to compare this black comedy with her latest, *Seneca*.
Young Vic Theatre, 100 Cut Lane, London SE1 (01-928 8363). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, matinee Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5-15, until April 25.

★ **A PIECE OF MY MIND:** George Cole and Anna Carter as Peter Nichols's play covering twenty years of a writer's life.
Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (01-437 2563). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, matinee Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5-15, until April 25.

★ **THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO:** Sir Cliff Richard as the gangster leader learning how to rule the world.
Queens Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (01-734 1166). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, matinee Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5-15, until April 25.

★ **SERIOUS MONEY:** Caryl Churchill's offbeat musical play about the Big Bang and City greed. Recommended.
Royal Court Theatre, St. Marks Square, London SW1 (01-734 1166). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, matinee Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5-15, until April 25.

★ **WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR... TROUSERS?** Man wakes up in a room to find clothes stolen by burglars. Take it from them.
Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-379 6107). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, matinee Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5-15, until April 25.

★ **THE FOURTH PROTOCOL:** (15) Old-fashioned entertainment based on Frederick Forsyth's novel about a Soviet plan to sabotage NATO. Michael Caine is the maverick psychotherapist (119 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.50, 5.35, 8.20.

★ **HAUNTED HONEYMOON:** (PG) Gene Wilder's mild parody of the haunted house genre, with Wilder and Glenda Jackson as the lovers.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ *The Business of Murder*: Mayfair Theatre (01-529 3038). ★ *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4079). ★ *Chess*: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8511). ★ *42nd Street*: Gielgud Theatre (01-636 8108/09 or 01-240 9066/7). ★ *Life and Mr. Cypri*: Adelphi Theatre (01-366 7811/7858 and 01-240 7813/4). ★ *Macbeth*: Palace Theatre (01-434 0509). ★ *The Mousetrap*: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443, cc 01-379 6438). ★ *No Sex, Please We're British*: Duchess Theatre (01-836 6243). ★ *Phantom of the Opera*: Sold out until October. ★ *Run for your life*: Criterium Theatre (01-930 3218, cc 01-379 6565). ★ *Starlight*: Adelphi Theatre (01-639 2244, cc 01-379 6131, 01-240 7200). ★ *Run for your life*: Criterium Theatre (01-930 3218, cc 01-379 6565). ★ *Starlight*: Adelphi Theatre (01-639 2244, cc 01-379 6131, 01-240 7200).

★ **OUT OF TOWN**
★ **CAMBRIDGE:** ★ *Knuckle*: First revival of David Hare's private-eye thriller starts a national tour, with Brian Capron, Joanna Hole and Ernest Clark.
Arts Theatre, Peas Hill (0223 352000). Mon-Sat 8.10-10.15pm, matinee Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-25.50, until April 25.

★ **LEICESTER:** ★ *My Sister in Law*: House: Nancy Medd directs Monstrous Regiment in a play based on the real-life crime that inspired George Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara*.
Haymarket Theatre, Belgrave Gate (0333 539797). Mon-Tue 7.45-8.50pm, Fri and Sat 8.15-10.20pm, £3, until April 25.

★ **LIVERPOOL:** ★ *Comedians*: Trevor Griffiths's 1975 play The Comedians marvellously re-written for women performers. With Cheryl Maier, Jenny Leacock and Ann Mitchell.
Everyman Theatre, Hope Street (051 708 4776). Tue-Sat 8.10-10.20pm, £2.50-5.50, until May 2.

★ **MANCHESTER:** ★ *Applesauce*: Evening show based on the film *All About Eve* with Josephine Blake in the role of Bette Davis.
Forum Theatre, Wythenshawe, Town Centre, Manchester (061 437 5853). Tue-Sat 7.30-9.55pm, £2-7.20, until April 11.

★ **STRATFORD:** ★ *Julius Caesar*: New season opens with Roger Allam as Brutus and Nicholas Farrell as Antony in Terry Hands's production.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 256222). Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, £5-17.50.

★ **FILMS**
★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**
★ **84 CHARING CROSS ROAD (U)**: Transatlantic romance between Helena Bonham Carter and a retiring London antique dealer (Anthony Hopkins).
David Jones directed (99 min).
Curzon Mayfair (01-499 3737). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20, 8.40.

★ **CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD (15)**: Polished version of the Broadway play, with William Hurt as the teacher of deaf adolescents emotionally involved with a former pupil (Marlee Matlin) (113 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 3.00, 5.35, 8.15.

★ **EDWARD & HELEN**: The British-based "Lunch at the Ritz" (119 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 3.00, 5.35, 8.15.

★ **THE FOURTH PROTOCOL (15)**: Old-fashioned entertainment based on Frederick Forsyth's novel about a Soviet plan to sabotage NATO. Michael Caine is the maverick psychotherapist (119 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.50, 5.35, 8.20.

★ **HAUNTED HONEYMOON (PG)**: Gene Wilder's mild parody of the haunted house genre, with Wilder and Glenda Jackson as the lovers.

under attack in a large country house (83 min).
Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252, cc 01-830 7815). Progs 1.15, 3.35, 6.05, 8.35.

★ **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (PG)**: Eccentric story of a boy, a girl and a man-eating plant called Audrey II. Savishly designed with film.
Morris, Ellen Greene and many cameo appearances (94 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **THE NAPLES CONNECTION (18)**: Complicated thriller with fantasy elements from the Italian director Lina Wertmüller. Angelina Molina gives a strong performance as the woman whose small son is involved in the crime made (106 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **OVER THE TOP (PG)**: Perfect title for a drama featuring Sylvester Stallone as an anti-warshiping truck driver who tries to get to know his neglected son during a cross-country race (85 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **PERSONAL SERVICES (18)**: Terry Jones's outrageous comedy inspired by the life of Cynitha Payne stars Julie Walters as the London madam who turns her house over for the fulfilment of other people's fantasies (105 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **ROMANTIC DAWN**: Directed by Raymond Leppard, the ECO gives the first of three programmes "The Dawn of Romanticism 1800-50". Beginning with Weber's *Abu Hassan* Overture and ending with Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3* (105 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **STAND BY ME (15)**: The adventures of four small-town adolescent boys in the summer of 1959. The film has a soundtrack decorated with the music of the period.
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **CONCERTS**
★ **LUNCHTIME**
★ **ALAN GRAYVILL**: Plays Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op 2 No. 1, Chopin's Ballade No. 3, Ravel's Concerto and Three Preludes by Germaine.
Bishopsgate Hall, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2 (01-247 6844). 1.05-1.50pm, £1.50.

★ **HEDGEHOG BRAHMS**: The Brahms-based "Lunch at the Ritz" (119 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 3.00, 5.35, 8.15.

★ **HAUNTED HONEYMOON (PG)**: Gene Wilder's mild parody of the haunted house genre, with Wilder and Glenda Jackson as the lovers.

★ **THE AMEN CORNER**: A musical comedy about the life of a man who becomes a famous singer.
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Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.



New 84, Edward Bowden is one of a generation of English artists who showed brilliance and yet somehow missed the spotlight of international acclaim. At least Sutherland, Piper, Ravioli and the Nash brothers are now fairly common names in Britain. Bowden, outside informed circles, is not, although few who would not recognize something from the mass of design and art work he has been associated with, whether it is a Wedgwood pot, a wallpaper pattern or a tile for the London Underground's Victoria Line. He made posters for Shell and Lloyds Transport in the 1930s. When advertising really was an art form. He illustrated books for the small but highly

regarded Curwen Press, was an official war artist and painted murals during the post-war reconstruction. Bowden has not yet, however, been awarded a full retrospective appraisal at a major gallery. An exhibition of recent watercolours, which describe the silent, sunlit rooms and passages of his Essex cottage and which reveal an artist in full command of his medium, provides some interim compensation. His enigmatic "Cat Among Pigeons" (above) is included in *The Private World of Edward Bowden*, now showing at the National Gallery, 100 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-639 5116), Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until April 30.

David Lee

★ **FROM BUDAPEST:** The Budapest Symphony Orchestra is conducted by György Lehel in Liszt's symphonic poem *Tasso*, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2 (Jeno Jando, soloist) and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6* "Pathétique".
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London WC2 (01-836 8881). 7.30-9.45pm, £5-25.50.

★ **ROMANTIC DAWN**: Directed by Raymond Leppard, the ECO gives the first of three programmes "The Dawn of Romanticism 1800-50". Beginning with Weber's *Abu Hassan* Overture and ending with Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3* (105 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **STAND BY ME (15)**: The adventures of four small-town adolescent boys in the summer of 1959. The film has a soundtrack decorated with the music of the period.
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **CONCERTS**
★ **LUNCHTIME**
★ **ALAN GRAYVILL**: Plays Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op 2 No. 1, Chopin's Ballade No. 3, Ravel's Concerto and Three Preludes by Germaine.
Bishopsgate Hall, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2 (01-247 6844). 1.05-1.50pm, £1.50.

★ **HEDGEHOG BRAHMS**: The Brahms-based "Lunch at the Ritz" (119 min).
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 3.00, 5.35, 8.15.

★ **HAUNTED HONEYMOON (PG)**: Gene Wilder's mild parody of the haunted house genre, with Wilder and Glenda Jackson as the lovers.

★ **THE AMEN CORNER**: A musical comedy about the life of a man who becomes a famous singer.
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

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★ **ROCK**
★ **PAUL SIMON**: Interest in this tour has been sustained effortlessly on a rising thermal of media heat following the extraordinary success of the rather average *Graceland*. Predictably, concerts so far, with a 21-piece band which includes Hugh MacKintosh and Minnie Driver, have prompted critical acclaim similar to that received by the album. Tonight for three nights, Royal Albert Hall, London SW1 (01-559 8212, 8pm, £13-215, £300 standing only tickets will go on sale each night at 7.15pm, £10).

★ **JAZZ**
★ **JAMES MOODY**: A veteran bebop saxophonist who presents his music with deliciously Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Fifth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747). 9.30pm, £2 (2 members).

★ **WAYNE SHORTER**: Recent records may suggest that this supremely gifted saxophonist has been losing his way in the jazz-rock desert, but his new band is said to be heading towards the right sound. Nelson Mandela Centre, Sheffield (0742 738994), 7.30pm, £5.50.

★ **CARLA BLEY**: The provocative composer and bandleader leads a sextet featuring her faithful bassist, Steve Swallow, and an outstanding young guitarist, John Scofield. London NW1 (01-836 1394, cc 01-387 6293), 7.30pm, £5.

★ **SLIM GAILLARD**: One of jazz's great exponents, Gaillard was the star of the 1950s, when he and his "groove" trio perfectly imitated English words.
Dolphin Restaurant, Dolphin Square, London SW1 (01-228 3007). Phone for details.

★ **HAPPY END**: The Weill/Brecht classic performed in English by St Donat's Music Theatre directed by Mike Ashman for the Camden Festival.
The Place, Dukes Road, London WC1 (01-387 0031/01-388 1394), 8.10pm, £5 (25 concessions).

★ **SERAGLIO**: A further performance in English of Graham Vick's highly-acclaimed new production of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. Opera North, Grand Theatre, New Bridge Street, Leeds LS2 (01-434 1711), 7.15-10.20pm, £3.50-15.50.

★ **MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**: John Ward's production of the Scottish Opera with Nicholas Forster and Joan Rodgers, conducted by Graeme Jenkins.
New Theatre, Park Square, Leeds LS2 (01-434 1711), 7.15-10.20pm, £3.50-15.50.

★ **LA BOHÈME**: Golan Givner's production for Welsh National Opera with Anne Williams-King and Dennis O'Neil. St. Charles.

★ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**: The musical comedy about the life of a man who becomes a famous singer.
Canon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.35.

★ **THE AMEN CORNER**: A musical comedy about the life of a man who becomes a famous singer.
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★ **TOP CLASSICAL COMPACT DISCS**
1 (2) Holst: The Planets, BPO/Karajan DG
2 (1) Elgar: Cello Concerto, Lloyd Webber/Menahim Philips
3 (3) Pavarotti Collection, Luciano Pavarotti Stylus
4 (4) Vivaldi: Four Seasons, AAM/Hogwood Lyre/Decca
5 (5) Beethoven: Symphonies 5 & 6, BPO/Karajan DG
6 (6) Beethoven: Symphony 9, BPO/Karajan DG
7 (7) Tchaikovsky: Tchaikovsky Spectacular, LSO/Abravon Imp Red
8 (8) Vivaldi: Four Seasons, SCO/Laredo Imp Red
9 (9) Puccini: La Bohème, HMV
10 (10) The Collection, Placido Domingo Stylus
11 (11) Beethoven: Symphonies 5 & 6, BPO/Karajan DG
12 (12) Beethoven: Symphony 3, BPO/Karajan DG
13 (13) Beethoven: Piano Sonatas, Kempff DG
14 (14) Bach: Brandenburg Concertos 4, 5, 6, ECO/Ladger Imp Red
15 (15) Dvorak: New World Symphony, LSO/Tuckwell Imp Red
16 (16) Andrew Lloyd Webber: Variations, LPO/Maezel Philips
17 (17) Beethoven: Piano Concertos 2 & 4, Ashkenazy/Concertgebouw/Haitink Decca
18 (18) 1812 Overture & Others, CSO/Barenboim Imp Red
19 (19) Vivaldi: Four Seasons, ECO/Pinnock Imp Red
20 (20) Elgar: Enigma Variations, LPO/Bout EMI

Source: Music Week Research

★ **WALKS**
★ **THE PRE-RAPHAELITES - THE LOCAL CONNECTION**: Talk by Victoria Williams, Curator of the Hastings Museum, about the pre-Raphaelite group in the area. Organized by the Friends of Rye Art Gallery.
Rye Art Gallery, Ockman Lane (info 077 222433).

★ **THE AGE OF TURNER**: Talk by Asa Briggs, Provost, Worcester College, Oxford, as part of a series on Art and Society in Turner's lifetime.

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★ **DANCE**
★ **SWAN LAKE**: Final performance before the Royal Ballet goes on tour. Day tickets (rear seats) £10.00 and standing room only or returns. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066), 7.30pm-10.20pm, £5-25.50.

★ **CARMIEN**: High powered casts from London Festival Ballet give Roland Petit's dance drama. Kevin Hagen as Nourah and a new work by Luyss Dore. Wyvern Theatre, Theatre Square, Swindon (0793 24481), 7.30-9.45pm, £4-25.

★ **SWAN LAKE**: André Prokoviev's dramatic staging for Northern Ballet Theatre. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066), 7.30pm-10.20pm, £5-25.50.

★ **ZADOK BEN-AVDI**: This young and talented animal sculptor holds an open studio from today in the gallery courtyard. City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 202173), Mon-Sat 10.30-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free until April 20.

★ **THE SCHOOL OF BOLOGNA 1570-1730**: A lesser-known Italian provincial school is here brought into a clearer focus with works by the Carracci, Guido Reni and Guercino. Herat & Johns, 12 Duke Street, London SW1 (01-638 7671), Mon-Fri 10.30-5pm, Sat 10.30-4pm, until May 15.

★ **JUGHERD LAMSA**: Accomplished figurative wood carvings of some originality by a self-trained sculptor who deserves a higher profile. Westbourne Gallery, 453 Harrow Road, W10 7TD, London W10 (01-638 7671), Mon-Fri 10.30-5pm, Sat 10.30-4pm, until April 25.

★ **GWEN HARDIE**: Paintings and drawings which subvert stereotypes and portray women as self-aware, powerful and in control. The Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh (031 225 2383), Tue-Sat 10.50-5.30pm, free, until April 25.

★ **PAUL NEAGU**: Drawings for sculpture by an artist currently showing at the Serpentine Gallery who has recently won an important commission for a large sculpture on the Strand.

★ **BODYLINES**: Clever juxtaposition of carefully selected pictures highlights changes in interpretation of poses, postures and tastes down the centuries. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-240 8371), Mon-Sat 10.30-5pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until May 17.

★ **ERTE**: Exuberant drawings and theatre designs by an old stage worker who worked for Diaghilev sixty years ago and, incredibly, is still producing. The Contemporary Art, 17 Princes Arcade, 150 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-438 1472), Mon-Fri 10.30-5.30pm, Sat 10-4pm, free, until April 7.

★ **SLIM GAILLARD**: One of jazz's great exponents, Gaillard was the star of the 1950s, when he and his "groove" trio perfectly imitated English words.
Dolphin Restaurant, Dolphin Square, London SW1 (01-228 3007). Phone for details.

★ **THE AGE OF TURNER**: Talk by Asa Briggs, Provost, Worcester College, Oxford, as part of a series on Art and Society in Turner's lifetime.

★ **THE**

Fine progeny of humble birth

out all over . . .

William Holmes

its about what is safe". And randomized testing is the only way to ensure that for the future. It seems a hard lesson the mothers of the present.

William Holmes

Upstairs are two telling exhibitions, under the joint title of *Towards a Bigger Picture* (until July 12): *Preoccupations*, which is another selection from the museum's permanent collection, and *Art and the*

Charles, with his emphasis on a fulsome sound, missed the Brahmsian side of Brak's Seventh Symphony as an expense of a measure of veritas. But the first movement retained its Tchaikovsky sense of doom, while the rest as a whole remained intriguingly ambivalent, combining natural breadth with strikingly concise argument.

ere were, inevitably, mo-
ts of unevenness in this
attempt at a long and
standing part. In particular,
gave the impression of

There were, inevitably, moments of unevenness in this first attempt at a long and demanding part. In particular, he gave the impression of

It becomes evident that, while to all intents and purposes the structure and the contents of the play remain, the work has gained a number of Gogol's appendages. One, when Gloucester interrupts

● Jointly produced by the Théâtre National de Strasbourg and the Maison de Culture, Bobigny. *Lear* now leaves the Bobigny (in a Parisian suburb) for the Cargo, Grenoble from tonight until Saturday.

...ome to expect of Williams.
...s full singing tone com-
...emented by some subtle
...ouches of colour. Thanks to
...once's modest scoring, as
...ell as a judiciously reduced
...ring section and some subtle
...nification of the soloist

66 I have this memory of Robbie Coltrane standing on the bar with his head inside a chandelier. 99 ENIMA "KETILES" THOMPSON (TUTTI FRUTTI)

66 I get excited staying in all these different hotels . . . I'm always curious what the wallpaper's gonna be like. 99 BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

... Bruce Springsteen
... profit

By order of the Court

 Clerk of the Court

FILED
 1967

...in the Commons
rife among
ising MPs

PART 2

TUESDAY APRIL 7 1987

THE TIMES

21

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1566.0 (+19.6)

FT-SE 100
1989.6 (+24.5)

Bargains
54946 (59197)

USM (Datastream)
163.63 (+1.4)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5185 (+0.0040)

W German mark
2.9521 (+0.0226)

Trade-weighted
72.4 (+0.5)

Queens Moat leaps 42%

Britain's second largest hotelier, Queens Moat Houses, today announced a 42 per cent pre-tax profit increase for 1986, despite the heavy cost of adding 24 hotels to its chain. Earnings rose to £14.92 million from £10.51 million in 1985. A final dividend of 0.85p will be paid, making 1.6p against 1.33p last year. The group now has 88 hotels, including 12 in Holland added in November.

The cost of this expansion is reflected in interest charges up 57 per cent. The group also spent about £10 million on its existing hotels. The chairman, Mr John Baird, said the figures included only a "small contribution" from the purchases made last year.

"The full benefit of those acquisitions will begin to show in the current year," he added.

Tempos, page 22

Brammer dips

Brammer, the bearings and electronics group, reports pre-tax profits down from £13.6 million to £12.6 million for the year ended December but it is maintaining the year's dividend at 12.5p a share with an unchanged final of 5p.

Tempos, page 23

£17m Myson

Myson, the heating and ventilation engineer, comfortably beat analysts' forecasts yesterday with pre-tax profits of £17.4 million for the year to December 1986 against a revised £8.8 million. Turnover rose from £153 million to £157.5 million and eps by 88 per cent to 1.37p. A final dividend of 2.48p makes 4p for the year.

Tempos, page 22

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2403.27 (+12.93)
Tokyo	2258.11 (+152.56)
Nikkei Dow	2258.11 (+152.56)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	Closed
Amsterdam Gen	266.16 (+4.7)
Sydney AO	746.4 (+25.3)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1871.3 (+35.4)
General	4484.49 (same)
Paris CAC	459.0 (+2.1)
Zurich S&K Gen	n/a
London FT A	n/a
FT Gilt	90.91 (+1.0)
Recent issues	Page 24
Closing prices	Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10%
3-month interbank	9 1/2 - 9 3/4 %
3-month eligible bills	9 1/2 - 9 3/4 %
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	7 1/4 %
Federal Funds	6 1/4 - 6 1/2 %
3-month Treasury Bills	5.47 - 5.48 %
30-year bonds	9 1/2 - 9 3/4 %

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.5185	£: \$1.5185
DM: 2.9521	DM: 2.9521
SwF: 2.4599	SwF: 2.4599
FF: 6.5536	FF: 6.5536
Yen: 236.22	Yen: 236.22
Helical: 72.4	Helical: 72.4
ECU: 10.70349	SDR: 10.797322

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
ICI	1337p (+37p)
Glaxo	1492p (+54p)
Rubert	435p (+28p)
Tarmac	507p (+23p)
Bristow Group	425p (+17p)
Federated Housing	215p (+20p)
Matthew Hall	195p (+12p)
Int'l Leisure	195p (+17p)
Stanley Leisure	315p (+25p)
Thames TV	480p (+15p)
Hillside	270p (+15p)
Home Counties	483p (+38p)
Freemans	435p (+22p)
IC Gas	745p (+19p)
Helical	890p (+30p)
Shield Group	333p (+43p)
Vantage Secs	144p (+41p)

FALLS:	
Lloyds Chemists	210p (-11p)
Thurston	150p (-15p)
United Packaging	150p (-15p)

Prices are as at 4pm

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$420.55 (\$421.45)	
Close \$417.5 (\$422.25)	
260.75	
New York:	
Comex \$420.80-421.30	

Stock Market	21 Money Mkts
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28 Unit Trns	28
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Tunnel share sale shelved

July rights issue to raise £75m

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Eurotunnel, the Channel tunnel consortium, yesterday postponed its planned public share offering until the autumn. In the meantime, it will ask existing shareholders for bridging finance to fund the project during the summer.

Under the new proposals, £750 million of equity finance will be raised in two stages. In July - the original date for the full fund-raising - the Anglo-French group will call for about £75 million, but not more than £100 million, through an underwritten rights issue.

The balance of the equity will be issued between late September and Christmas through an international public share sale.

Mr Alastair Morton, the British co-chairman, said: "The raising of equity has to be insulated from certain pressures. We were reaching the situation where we were at the mercy of pressures over which we had no control."

Although the timing of a general election in Britain has always been the biggest uncertainty, difficulties in finalising a railway usage agreement with British Rail and SNCF, the French state railway, have clearly tipped the balance towards a postponement. The railway agreement is holding up the early syndication of £5 billion in loan finance, which must be in place before any further equity can be raised.

It is also likely that the passage of the Channel Tunnel Bill through Parliament may

not be completed until mid-June, leaving only three weeks before the French summer holiday season.

The railway agreement, which should have been signed by the end of last year, gives the two state railways the right to use the Channel tunnel for passenger and freight trains. Some operational points, including the timing of trains and sequence of control, still have to be settled, but the main sticking point is Eurotunnel's fee for the concession.

Mr Morton said: "The agreement is proving somewhat more onerous than expected." He added that a deal had to be reached this month for the worldwide syndication of the £5 billion bank facilities to be launched in May.

A spokesman for British Rail said: "The delay is caused by Eurotunnel seeking to vary

the terms of the heads of agreement reached last September.

An autumn election will not cause further problems as the rights issue money will fund the project until the new year. Although Eurotunnel has spent less than £100 million of the £260 million already raised, more money is needed in July to cover rising contract commitments.

"The problem is not cash. We are not in danger of running out of money," said Mr Morton.

Some institutional investors said the delay of the flotation had seemed inevitable and indicated that success of the rights issue would depend on the terms. The rights issue does not preclude bringing in new shareholders to take up unwanted share rights.

One leading investor said: "I suppose as shareholders we will have to put money up and see them through. Once the election is out of the way I do not think they will have too much difficulty raising the rest of the money."

Eurotunnel has appointed additional advisers to the equity issues in Britain. SG Warburg, the merchant bank, will join Robert Fleming and Morgan Grenfell as bankers to the issue. SG Warburg Securities will co-ordinate the broking side, working with Scrimgeour Vickers and Country Securities, the existing brokers.

Comment, page 21



Morton: 'no danger of running out of money'

Guinness in talks to resolve Dewar's trademark wrangle

By Our City Staff

Guinness is holding negotiations - "without prejudice" - with the Rapid American Corporation in an attempt to settle a legal wrangle over the ownership of the Dewar's trademark and the distribution of Dewar's in the United States.

Last week Mr Anthony Tennant, the new Group Chief Executive at Guinness, said that the company may have to sue Rapid whose subsidiary, Schenley Industries, handles the American distribution of Dewar's.

Guinness is, however, hoping to settle the dispute before sending out its letter to shareholders with the annual report and accounts in the next few weeks.

Dewar's Whisky is an old

Distillers product which was inherited when Guinness took over the £2.7 billion drinks company in April last year. Guinness is claiming that the new distribution contract and assignment of the Dewar's trademark to Schenley is invalid.

The Schenley deal was arranged last year by Mr Thomas Ward, the American lawyer who has been asked to resign his directorship of Guinness.

The distribution agreement does not specify a date on which it is to end and on the face of it appears to give Schenley an indefinite right to distribute Dewar's in the US. The American rights to the trademark also

appear to have been assigned indefinitely to Schenley.

The permanent nature of the distribution contract and the assignment of the trademark are unusual as well as being disadvantageous to Guinness and its shareholders.

Schenley was a massive supporter of the Guinness bid for Distillers, purchasing over 17 million Guinness shares right up to the end of the takeover battle.

This took Schenley over the 5 per cent level at which stakes in public companies must be disclosed. However it formally disclosed its holding only last December, claiming that its omission was due to ignorance of the Companies Act.

Extel slumps on news of Maxwell sale plan

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in Extel, the news and information group, tumbled sharply on the stock market last night after the publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, who had built up a 27 per cent stake in the company, unexpectedly announced that he would not be making a full-scale bid.

Extel shares, which had been buoyed up on prospects of a bid from Mr Maxwell, fell 55p to 473p, wiping more than £20 million off its value.

Mr Maxwell's publicly quoted printing group BPC, and the Pergamon Media Trust which together hold the Extel shares - would have been free to launch a bid after April 28.

Mr Maxwell, who had acted

in concert with the failed Demerger bid for Extel last year, had to wait 12 months before entering the fray again. But in a brief statement last night, BPC said that due to Pergamon's involvement in a consortium to run a French television station and its own acquisition plans in the US, it was ending market speculation and preparing to sell its shares in Extel. "Discussions are taking place with Extel regarding the disposal of these holdings," it said.

The announcement caught many analysts unaware as they had also been widely predicting a battle for Extel, some suggesting that the company would not be taken over under £5 a share.

Avana fails in fight to escape from RHM

By Ray Heath

The two-month struggle by the Avana baking group against the bid from Rank Hovis McDougall, the millers and bakers, looked all over bar the counting yesterday.

The company's hopes of a friendly rescue bid from a third party failed following a weekend of talks in Paris between a French food group and Avana's chairman, Dr John Randall.

It seems certain that the increased offer made by RHM on April 2, worth 800p a share yesterday, valuing Avana at £280 million, was high enough to sway a majority of the institutions.

RHM now holds shares, or acceptances, representing 30 per cent of Avana's shares, and the company is expected

to announce victory well before the official closing date for the bid of April 17.

A statement from Avana yesterday said that discussions with "several interested potential offerors" had been terminated.

Avana shares closed 2p down at 800p.

British, American and French companies had expressed interest in Avana.

It was a French group, which insisted on anonymity, that seemed to hold out the best hopes for a counter offer. Despite talks which did not finish until the early hours of yesterday morning, Dr Randall could secure no firm commitment, and felt he had no choice but to call off the discussions.



Polite pressure: Mr Howard begins the formalities at the international trade ministry

Howard opens sparring with Japanese leaders

From David Watts, Tokyo

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, reported moderate progress on the first day of his dual mission in Japan.

He seeks to win greater access to the Tokyo Stock Exchange for British companies and put pressure on the Japanese government to allow Cable and Wireless a management role in a new international telecommunications firm.

But any movement was related more to exchange of technical information than immediate improvement in the chances of more British companies obtaining seats on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE).

Mr Howard outlined his timetable for access to the TSE in a meeting with Mr Toyoo Gyohten, Vice-Minister for International Affairs at the Ministry of Finance, and said he wanted a response by the time officials of the two countries meet again in May or June.

Mr Gyohten told him that the ministry understood the importance of the request but pointed out that it should be directed to Mr Michio Takeuchi, President of the TSE, when he meets him tomorrow.

The last time TSE access was speeded up it came after the intervention of the then Minister of Finance, Mr Noboru Takeshita.

Mr Howard explained that there had been misunderstanding of the Financial Services Act. It could be applied only to matters relating to mutual financial business between the two countries and while the impression may have been given that because the Act became effective from April 23 there was therefore a deadline that was not the case.

For his part Mr Gyohten asked for favourable consideration of London banking licence applications from Nikko Securities and Yamaichi Securities and

ing of the securities trading tax introduced last year.

During a brief meeting with journalists, Mr Howard said his aim had been to illustrate to the Japanese side that on financial reciprocity the British Government would have the power to act after two weeks and a half and in the area of general trading he wanted to get over the depth of concern at the trade imbalance and the difficulty of access to the Japanese market.

"It's got to change. We've got to get a fair deal for Britain," he said, adding that there must be concrete results.

According to the Ministry of Finance, Mr Howard said that he valued the fact that Japan was taking "a fair attitude" on the issues. There had not been substantive discussion.

Today, Mr Howard visits banking and securities houses, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Tadashi Kuranari, MITI and a larger foreign affairs ministry meeting.

Scottish TV leaps to £8m

By Joe Joseph

Scottish Television profits jumped 66.9 per cent last year to £8.06 million from £4.83 million in 1985.

Its subscription to Channel Four of £11.162 million, up from £9.406 million the previous year, continued to eat into the figures.

Earnings per share rose to

50.01p from 31.17p, while the final dividend of 12p makes 15p for the year against 10.5p in 1985.

Overall income from advertising, programme sales and other sources grew by around £10 million to £75 million, but the rate of advertising growth is expected

to slow this year.

Among the main recommendations of the Peacock Committee report was increased access on both TTV and the BBC for independent production companies and STV is devising ways of accommodating the proposals.

But it fears that the growth of the independent sector will be in the London area at the expense of other regions of Britain.

It says ways must be found to prevent this situation happening, otherwise the regional structure of ITV will be threatened.

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£103.3m valuation for International Leisure

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

The management buy-out team at International Leisure Group, led by the ILG chairman, Mr Harry Goodman, yesterday made an agreed cash offer of 200p for each ordinary share, which valued ILG at £103.3 million.

Mr Goodman wants the ILG business in package holidays and aircraft chartering back as a private operation, to escape the short-term pressures of the stock market. He wants to build up the airline side which, he says, demands a medium-term strategy that might mean several years of flatter profits.

The ebullient Mr Goodman had pledged that every shareholder would make a profit in the buy-out bid, for which a new company, Hudson Place Investments, has been created as the takeover vehicle. Yesterday's terms comfortably topped the previous high mark of the ordinary shares, 188p. The shares ended yesterday at 196p.

It represents an historic exit p/e ratio of about 18 times, and a capital gain of 23.5 per cent on the midmarket price of 162p in March, the day before the initial announcement that discussions over an ILG takeover had opened. A loan note alternative is being offered.



Harry Goodman: frustrated by the Stock Exchange

There is an offer of 158p in cash for preference shares which values them at £46.6 million.

There are irrevocable undertakings covering 37.7 per cent of the ILG ordinary shares. Those in the management buy-out group own 8.4 million. Also pledged are four

million shares owned by Omnicon Investments, the New Zealand company in which Chase Corporation, the property concern, has a 40 per cent stake. There are also 5.1 million shares owned by Iberotravel, a travel company operating mainly in Spain

which built up its stake in ILG during 1985.

Omnicon has given undertakings on the 1.7 per cent of the preference shares it owns. Mr Goodman has elected to take Hudson loan notes for 3 million of his own shares — he has just over a 15 per cent stake in ILG.

The new Hudson company will be managed by the present ILG top team, with Mr Goodman as chairman and chief executive, Mr Peter Woodward as joint deputy chairman, and Mr Peter Smith as group managing director. Mr Hugh Parry will be finance director.

The management group will initially hold about 15 per cent of the Hudson equity.

The buy-out group in a statement said that the volatility in the package holidays market had led to a focus on uncertainties about short-term effects on ILG profits. It had affected ILG's stock rating, limiting the group's ability to finance expansion plans, and opening it to takeover speculation.

Mr Goodman said: "I have been frustrated by the Stock Exchange. ILG has been valued at around only £60 million. I am not saying the market is wrong. I am saying let us come back to the market later in a more mature and acceptable form."

Profits fired by 18% at WBB

By Joe Joseph

Bolstered by the performance of its growing interests in West Germany, WBB's profits, Blake, Devonshire-based producer of ball and china clays, turned in an 18 per cent rise in profits last year and is looking for fresh acquisitions to feed its plans for expansion.

Mr John Pike, the managing director, said yesterday that WBB's wholly-owned West German subsidiary Fuchs'sche Tongruben played a major role in lifting pretax profits in the year ended last December to £5.455 million from £4.624 million in 1985.

Turnover for the group rose 13.1 per cent to £31,988 million and earnings per share climbed by 26 per cent to 19.10p. The company is paying a final dividend of 3.68p per share, making 5.3p for the year against 4.6p for 1985.

WBB commands about two-thirds of the British market for plastic type ball clay, but less than 5 per cent of that for powdery china clay, which is dominated by English China Clays.

After a poor start to 1986, WBB's exports of ball clay grew smartly and sales in the last quarter were the best for years.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet Eurotunnel drives out of Morton's Fork

At last a measure of realism has been injected into Eurotunnel, the favoured but seemingly ill-fated, fixed-link across the Channel, and with it a strong extra dose of professionalism in the shape of SG Warburg and SG Warburg Securities which are joining Eurotunnel's five existing financial advisers and two firms of London stockbrokers. Alastair Morton, the new co-chairman, who is surely in line for a dukedom if Eurotunnel succeeds in linking the Continent with England, has been commendably quick in accepting that the timetable for financing the project — £5 billion in bank loans committed in June and £750 million of equity capital raised through a public offering of shares in July — is out of question, for a variety of reasons.

The intention now is to proceed with the loan programme but to confine the July issue of equity to between £75 million and £100 million. The equity will be "private": it is expected to come from the small group of existing institutional shareholders, who feel they are in a Catch 22 situation (if they refuse to have their arms twisted and the project lapses, they have lost their original investment).

The pressure is being put on British Rail and French Railways to sign a railway usage agreement "satisfactory to Eurotunnel", ostensibly on the ground that such an agreement is "the only fundamental precondition to loan syndication still outstanding." BR, certainly, interprets this pressure as an attempt to extract more money from them for using the tunnel. If correct, this would suggest that the lending banks are not satisfied with the forecasts of traffic, costs, revenues and profits in the prospectus published last autumn.

Whatever they may feel about their position (cornered), existing shareholders, and any others who may be drawn into this charmed circle in July, must insist on a prospectus at least as detailed as the one they, and the general public, would have received had the full £750 million equity fund raising gone ahead as originally planned.

It should therefore include details not only of the rail usage agreements and updated forecasts taking them into account but also solid assurances on the safety aspects of the vehicle shuttle concept, which at the time of the earlier prospectus had not been fully engineered or designed, and results of geological work on the French side of the Channel where the structures are uncertain.

Eurotunnel is claiming that given another £75-£100 million it is safe from any hazards at least until the beginning of next year. Not everyone would share its optimism. The argument, of course, becomes academic if the "substantially larger issue" now scheduled for the autumn goes according to plan. If it does not, the immediate fate of the project may be in the hands of the contractors.

At present about the only firm agreement Eurotunnel has is with the builders. They would have a difficult decision to make: pride would be at stake but if the worst happened, they would find consolation in the compensation clauses.

The awful truth may be that Eurotunnel is the wrong project, in two senses: private financing, the Government's own rigid condition, was always going to be a hairy exercise, and the idea of a rail tunnel, even one that provides a shuttle for carrying vehicles, has very little sex appeal for anyone under the age of 50.

On the other hand, if there is to be a fixed link, Eurotunnel is currently the only option. It now appears, under new management, to be getting up some steam. But what an appalling story Eurotunnel has been up to now. After Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterand signed the Treaty, it was virtually abandoned for almost a year: leaderless, rudderless, penniless.

All set for gold run

Gold shares have been one of the best performing sectors so far this year, rising by more than 40 per cent, and the fun does not seem to be over yet. In contrast, the world gold price, although back over \$421 an ounce yesterday, has only risen — in dollar terms — by a modest 3 per cent. In terms of other currencies, bullion has hardly moved.

Four wise men from Merrill Lynch believe the world price is soon to have a run of its own. Their analysts from New York, London and Australia forecast that \$500 an ounce is possible this year, and \$600 an ounce next.

With US gold fund managers under pressure to find a home for a net inflow of \$25 million of new investment money every day, it is little wonder that US and Canadian gold mining shares have been driven to prospective price earning ratios of 40. The tumbling Australian dollar has put life into virtually every Australian gold mining share, where the average price earnings ratio is now 25. Even South African mining shares are back in favour, and in relative terms, viewed as cheap.

There are several factors behind the rekindling of interest in gold: the belief that American inflation will rise; worries about world debt; concern over trade wars; and the need to have some protection when world equity and bond markets begin to come off the boil.

The negatives against gold should not be ignored. New gold mines are coming on stream almost weekly, adding to world supply. Jewellery demand is not especially buoyant, and speculative investment demand is still modest.

Gold is beginning to behave like a leading currency, and on balance the gold bull market, which started in February 1985, still looks to be intact.

Mrs Fields in store buy from Pepsico

By John Bell City Editor

Mr Randall and Mrs Debbie Fields, the husband and wife team who run the 300-strong chain of Mrs Fields cookie shops, have bought 100 baked products — from the Pepsico group. No price has been divulged as part of the agreement with Pepsico.

Unusually, they have purchased the company, La Petite Boulangerie, through Mrs Fields Holdings, the parent company which owns 80 per cent of the equity of the quoted company, Mrs Fields Inc.

LPB is scheduled to make "significant" losses in the current financial year, though again no figures have been disclosed. The directors of Mrs Fields Inc reckon that LPB has considerable potential in the medium term and have been given an option to acquire the Pepsico company at a "fair market price" in 1990. The terms will be determined by an independent financial adviser if the option is to be exercised.

The aim of this unusual procedure is to minimize the negative impact of the LPB losses this year and possibly

next. There would also be a tax benefit to the quoted company arising from allowable US treatment of acquired companies. Mrs Fields Inc expected a tax charge of 17 per cent in the current year rising to 20 per cent next. This year's bill will be reduced to 10 per cent while the 1988 charge is forecast at 17 per cent.

There will also be benefits operationally. LPB has a large plant which manufactures the dough from which its products are baked in each of the 100 outlets. There will be savings from using spare capacity in the dough manufacturing plant for the existing Mrs Fields operations.

Mrs Fields Inc. will also make a management charge to the group holding company for running the 100 LPB shops.

So far shareholders are being given little detail by which to appraise the proposals. While they are being spared the risk of losses should the LPB company fail to respond to the Fields treatment, any capital gain arising from a turn round would benefit the parent company

Consumer credit at record £2.95bn

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

A record £2.95 billion of credit was advanced to consumers in February — up from £2.7 billion in January — on stronger retail sales.

Bank credit card borrowing accounted for £1.28 billion of the total. This has been the fastest-growing category of credit in recent months.

In the latest three months, borrowing on bank credit cards rose by 4 per cent, while credit advances by retailers fell by 3 per cent.

The February credit surge was mainly due to a jump in retail sales from depressed January levels. There was a 2.2 per cent rise in retail sales volume as the weather improved, matching the decline in January.

The final index of sales volume in February was 125.0 (1980 = 100), up from 122.3 in January. In the latest three months, sales were unchanged on the previous three months but 6 per cent up on a year earlier.

Spending on household goods was particularly high, recording an 8.2 per cent volume increase in February. The average weekly value of

sales was £1.725 billion, 9 per cent up on the previous year. The total amount of credit outstanding at the end of February was £24.5 billion, up from £24.1 billion in January.

The credit figures come hard on the heels of the weekend announcement by Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of Fair Trading, that a review is to be carried out of consumer credit.

Sir Gordon cited evidence that credit is too readily available from banks, stores and specialist credit institutions.

The Bank of England has expressed concern about the growth of credit in the economy and is conducting a survey of the banks' lending experiences to consumers.

But Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in evidence to the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee, said credit debt accounted for 5 per cent of outstanding consumer borrowing and most of the growth in personal debt was due to mortgage lending and wider home ownership.

Distribution gains a complete identity

By Our Industrial Editor

The distribution industry, which at a conservative estimate, accounts for a fifth of Britain's gross domestic product (GDP), gained a new professional body yesterday as the British Institute of Management (BIM) shed its fast-growing physical distribution management arm.

From it has risen the entirely independent Institute of

Logistics and Distribution Management.

The new organization will be moving from the BIM's offices at Corby, Northamptonshire, to headquarters elsewhere in the town.

Sir Peter Thompson, who is chairman of the National Freight Consortium, was chairman of the BIM's old Institute of Physical Distribution Management. And it will be Sir Peter, who

will become the chairman of the new body.

He said: "The growth of the major multiples in the retail trade, the concentration on customer services, the need to contain costs particularly in inventory and the introduction of new technology are only some of the factors which have contributed to the importance of logistics management. Logistics, once a military

term used to denote the movement of troops and supplies, has been adopted in the distribution sector because managers increasingly deal with movement, storage and handling of goods or raw materials.

Their work includes also production scheduling, inventory control and their relationship with marketing, manufacturing, purchasing and finance.

The Storey with a roof on top

Even if you are a millionaire, it seems you need all the money you can get to maintain a mansion these days. Sir Richard Storey, chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers and a member of the Press Council, has received grants to the value of £2,000 during the past two years, towards roof repairs on his impressive Grade II-listed Yorkshire home — 200-year-old Settrington House, near Malton — and its adjacent stable block. The stable block, which has now been converted into a luxury banqueting and concert hall for classical music and "re-named" "The Orangery," has more recently been the recipient of another £500 grant, this time to fund a concert being held under the auspices of the annual Ryedale Festival. All three grants have, I understand, come from his local Ryedale District Council. Coincidentally, I hear that his wife, Virginia, is a Conservative member of the council. However, I am assured that she took no part in council discussions about her husband's grants.

Still working

Dr Ingram Lenton, aged 59, who retired as chairman and managing director of paper manufacturer Bowater Industries at the end of March, has resurfaced, barely a week later, as a non-executive director of clay miner, processor and blender, Walsley & Beane. His appointment will mean monthly trips to its offices at Newton Abbot, Devon, from his Berkshire home. Dr Lenton already

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

knows the route well. He is also non-executive chairman of privately-owned Devonian textile manufacturer John Heathcoat.

David Duckham, who ran rings around his rugby opponents in the 1970s, is now doing similar things to the Midlands business community. Duckham, known as the "blond bombshell" since his days in the England rugby team — and in the winning British Lions in New Zealand

in 1971 — has just joined the board of Galliford Group, the housebuilder and civil engineer. Duckham has been made marketing director of the firm's building group.

Price's price

Accountants do not usually go in for gambling, but when they saw that a horse called The Tsarevich was running in Saturday's Grand National, the temptation proved too much for the team of number-crunchers at Price Waterhouse handling the administration of the £46 million Russian Fund. More than half the 30-strong band wagered a pound or two, some getting odds of 20-1 a week before the race. Fate or not, the horse came in second and I am told the office celebrations went on until late last night.

Odd job

Peter Simonis, aged 60, chairman of the engineering group, Haden, which staged a £58 million management buy-out after a bid from Trafalgar House, admits he is no great authority on computers. It is therefore somewhat surprising to see him popping up as a non-executive director of Orchid Technology, the computer parts company joining the USM. Among the other

hats worn by Simonis is the chairmanship of Gibraltar Shiprepair, the company now running the privatized dockyards on the Rock and finding the transition to the private sector tough going after years of reliance on Ministry of Defence work. The company recently submitted itself to a searching examination by the accountants, Price Waterhouse. The yard got a reasonably clean bill of health — although the accountants did suggest that it should sort out problems with its computers!

No problem

Latest piece of advice for the hard-pressed British manager — in the wake of stories about cocaine-smuggling City yuppies — comes from Dr Beric Wright, former medical adviser to the Institute of Directors, in the form of draconian action against two of our most harmful indulgences. Smokers and drinkers, he says alarmingly, should be sacked, or not employed in the first place. Writing for the consultancy Professional & Executive Recruitment, he says that "quite a good case can be made for not employing smokers" and that alcohol consumption should be monitored personally and collectively. Some companies are far too boozy, he adds, and heavy drinkers should be warned, offered help and if this fails, dismissed. "Companies that care about their people may well find recruiting easier than those that get a reputation for destroying them."

Carol Leonard

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Portfolio - Gold -

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Guinness (as)	Breweries	
2	Ward Group	Building Roads	
3	Metro Focus	Electronics	
4	Evode	Chemicals/Plas	
5	Jones Stroud	Electronics	
6	Lowell (VJ)	Building Roads	
7	Highland Elect	Electronics	
8	Anglo Nordic	Industrials A-D	
9	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
10	Midland (as)	Banks/Discount	
11	Brown & Jackson	Building Roads	
12	Gleeson (MJ)	Building Roads	
13	Brown Boveri Kent	Electronics	
14	Berford (S&W)	Food	
15	Western Bros	Building Roads	
16	Amber Day	Drapery Stores	
17	Alcon	Drapery Stores	
18	GEC (as)	Electronics	
19	Hickson	Chemicals/Plas	
20	Barham	Industrials A-D	
21	Wilson (Connolly)	Building Roads	
22	Macro BS	Electronics	
23	Abney	Building Roads	
24	Nat Aust Bk	Banks/Discount	
25	Perkinson	Building Roads	
26	Brown (Matthew)	Breweries	
27	Brassey	Industrials A-D	
28	Blagden	Chemicals/Plas	
29	Bentley (James) A	Drapery Stores	
30	Exarcon Clothes	Drapery Stores	
31	Fosco-Minsep	Chemicals/Plas	
32	Cook (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
33	P&E International	Electronics	
34	Aquascutum A	Drapery Stores	
35	Murray Elect	Electronics	
36	Chloride	Electronics	
37	Bridged Op	Industrials A-D	
38	Colson Gp	Industrials A-D	
39	Ayrshire Metal	Industrials A-D	
40	De La Rue	Industrials A-D	
41	Buro	Industrials A-D	
42	DDT Group	Electronics	

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS			
1986	High	Low	Stock

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1986	High	Low	Stock

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1986	High	Low	Stock

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1986	High	Low	Stock

UNDATED			
1986	High	Low	Stock

INDEX-LINKED			
1986	High	Low	Stock

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1986	High	Low	Stock

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Strong start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end April 24. Settlement day April 27. Settlement day May 5.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks, volumes are on page 22

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

BREWERIES							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

FINANCE AND LAND							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

FOODS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

CINEMAS AND TV							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

ELECTRICALS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

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1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

Portfolio - Gold -

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1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

PROPERTY							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

SHIPPING							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

SHOES AND LEATHER							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

TEXTILES							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

TOBACCOS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

OIL & GAS							
1986/7	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

Edited by Matthew May

COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

HUMOUR COMPETITION
STARTS TODAYIs this why you
didn't get
that special job?

For every job advertised in the computer industry there may be 10 or more eager applicants, particularly when high salaries are being quoted. Most of them will fail to get the job they apply for and many will not even get past the first post towards an interview. So what turns recruitment agencies and employers on, or off, as the case may be in the computer industry?

"Some people apply for jobs with no hope whatsoever of getting them," says Wolfgang Sellmeyer of recruitment company, Forsyth Executive.

Aspirations beyond capability seem particularly prevalent among those in the computer industry. "We often have to turn people down because they lack thorough experience," says Judy Woods, senior personnel officer responsible for computer staff at TSB Trust Company in Andover.

Apparently people who use a personal computer in their

someone who doesn't know in exact detail what your job entails to see if they understand it. "People often leave out important things such as a description of what their present employer does — especially if the company is not a household name — or the activities of the relevant sector in which they work."

"At the interview," says Judy Woods of TSB Trust Company, "you need to be open. Don't have too definite an idea of what you want. Listen to the interviewer and don't speak too technically when it is not needed. Analysts sometimes do that, and they should know better," she says.

Interview patterns can be many and varied, from the informal to the detailed, including aptitude and psychometric testing. Whatever the pattern, remember that all the other interviewees will get the same treatment — unless the interviewer has an odd day.

One novel way of establishing a standard pattern for job selection and interview has been adopted by EPC, European Personnel Counsellors, who deal solely in recruitment for computer industry sales and marketing people.

After CVs for a particular job have been sifted, candidates attend EPC for a three-hour session starting with five different computer analysed tests prepared with the job vacancy in mind.

They cover creativity, personality and attitude, logical reasoning, numerical reasoning and a technical test — prepared by the prospective employer — covering the company's technical markets. This is followed by a videotaped interview based on the results of the tests.

With video cameras easily available for hire and home use, it could make sense to rehearse being interviewed in this way at home.

"It is always a good idea to practise interviews," says Judy Woods, "and while your application says what your expertise is, it is the personality which comes out in the interview."

JOB SCENE

By Eddie Coulter

job or at home often believe they can program and, while there could be places for them as trainees, their aspirations are usually higher than their knowledge.

The second problem area comes with the submission of CVs. A spokeswoman for Management and Executive Selection in London revealed that 25 per cent of CVs, often for senior computing posts, are "appalling", she said. "Fifty per cent are OK, and only 25 per cent are reasonable."

That view is endorsed by Wolfgang Sellmeyer, who says that the presentation of many CVs by senior people is quite unprofessional. "CVs should be concise and cover the relevant points of the career. The average, depending on length of career, should be two to three pages and no more. Some people write books," he says.

Mr Sellmeyer recommends that you show your CV to

THE TIMES

COMPUTING HUMOUR
COMPETITION

CMG, Europe's largest independent computing services organization, is owned entirely by its 1,300 staff. The equity is bought and sold internally on an annual basis, allowing control to remain with the employees and their families.

Democracy extends to the car park of its Croydon headquarters. There are no reserved spaces for anyone.

This egalitarian approach has paid dividends — 9.12 per cent before tax on last year's sales of £51.2 million. After 23 years of growth, CMG is now established as market leader in the field of services and software, operating mainly in the UK, The Netherlands, and West Germany.

Laugh all the way on this
holiday flight to the US

Information technology, not generally regarded as the funniest of subjects, has not escaped the attention of humorists, particularly those immediately concerned in its application. Today, in association with the computer services company CMG, we launch a four-week series of competitions aimed at finding some of the best humour inspired by our ever-increasing reliance on computer technology both in our working lives and our private lives.

We are looking for the funny situations that can arise in the office or factory, at the bank, the supermarket checkout or the airline terminal. Every week, for four weeks, we are asking you to share with us a joke, a story or a description of a humorous situation involving computers. You do not need to know a thing about computers to enter, although we welcome contributions from any would-be Clive Sinclair, or, indeed, the man himself.

THE PRIZES: The first prize in the competition will be an open executive class return air ticket for two to Boston, with transport to and from the airport. The prize will include two nights' hotel accommodation and a visit to the computer museum.

The second prize is a Mediterranean holiday for two, with a value of £1,000, in an attractive and intriguing location.

In addition, there will be runner-up prizes for all those readers whose jokes are published among the selection we intend to reproduce in Computer Horizons. These prizes will be presentation copies of a joke book to be edited by Rex Malik, which will incorporate the prize-winning entries.

HOW TO ENTER: Send us in no more than 75 words your favourite joke or humorous account of a situation connected with computing on one side of one sheet of paper. All you need to add is your name, address and telephone number (if any) and The Times/CMG competition logo at the top of column three on this page, cut out and pinned or stuck on the sheet. Send your entry to: The Times/CMG Computing Humour Competition, 29 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU, to arrive no later than

Saturday, April 11. A selection of the first week's entries considered worthy of publication will be published two weeks from today. Further selections will be published on the following Tuesdays until May 12, when the two overall winners will be announced.

THE RULES

- 1 The prizes will be awarded to the entrants whose contributions are, in the opinion of the judges, the best submitted.
- 2 All entries should be original, although a computing variation of a familiar joke is acceptable.
- 3 Any number of entries may be submitted, provided The Times/CMG logo is attached to every one.
- 4 The competition is not open to employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and its associated companies or CMG Computer Management Group (UK) Ltd or any of its subsidiaries, and those employees' families.
- 5 The judges' decisions will at all times be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 6 Entries are not returnable.

I SAY,
I SAY,
I SAY

Humour is a highly subjective subject. Here are some examples someone found amusing. Perhaps you may feel you can do better.

■ The salesman is demonstrating the system to one of the rich and idle. He is saying: "It's user-friendly, but not over-familiar."

■ Then there's that other salesman demonstrating the system advertised as suitable for the senior managerial desk, pointing out that it comes with software capable of playing office politics.

■ Found on a bulletin board at Stanford University, California, in early 1980: "Thought for the day. As far as we know, our computer has never had an undetected error." — Conrad H. Weiser, Union Carbide Corporation.

■ Laws, principles, rules and theorems. Those American prophets, Brooks, Shaw, Weinberg and Meskinen coined the following: Brooks' Law: Adding manpower to a late software project makes it later.

Shaw's Principle: Build a system that even a fool can use and only a fool will want to use it.

Weinberg's Law: If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker that came along would destroy civilization.

Meskinen's Law: There's never time to do it right, but always time to do it over.



By Rex Malik

Good (that is, funny) German and Japanese computing jokes are few. I know because a world-wide network sharing my fascination keeps me informed, and my collection is large.

Only senior people seem to make, and share, what I think of as good computing-related jokes in Russia. They are more general in France, where they are often very good indeed. Otherwise, the rest of the world tends to steal them.

In the main, they steal them from us. The home of computing wit is Britain, though when it comes to broader humour

The spiritual home of computing wit

and voluminous plays on themes the United States generally seems to win... they do go on so.

I stumbled on my first computing joke more than 30 years ago. I found it in a set of Nato computer engineering conference proceedings. It was the days when computer specialists were so few that every word they uttered was judged immortal and went into the transcript.

I have been collecting ever since. Not just stand-up co-

median jokes but rules, laws, comment and observations, funny ha-ha and funny peculiar — and particularly management-related computing wit.

You might think that with personal computers now out there in millions there would have been a proportionate increase in the number of jokes, and a change in their direction.

You would be wrong. The same old ones are turning up

again and again. Sometimes they are quite technical, shared by a *cognoscente*, though one has to remember now numbering millions, not thousands. However, although the numbers and names referred to may have altered over the years, they are still basically the same processes and recognizably the same jokes.

Most indeed have long been in the public domain, and are going through their umpteenth reworking and rewrit-

ing. Indeed, there is usually someone who heard it somewhere before you, reinforcing the comedian's platitude that there are anyway only seven basic jokes, and that they have all been around since Man first found the world a funny, odd sort of place.

I write in this vein for good reason. Computing humour particularly is a play on basic human themes. On sifting my collection, I find it seems to have three main strands.

One: Supposing the things really are cleverer than we are?

Two: If there is a great programmer in the sky, he is probably a close relative of Murphy's.

Three: You mean we have a different if not really new excuse?

The conclusion? If you think you have heard it before, do not despair. In some form or other, you probably have.

Send it anyway. You may well have a new twist or a new version. Always remember that there's still nowt as queer as folk, computing is the next best candidate, and the two combined...

CREATING POWERFUL DATABASE
SOFTWARE THAT'S SIMPLE TO USE MEANT
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We've replaced the usual cryptic symbols and jargon with simple programming commands, displayed on-screen in plain English.

The absence of gobbledeygook means you'll have no problem taking full advantage of dBase III Plus' enormous potential. Which is just as well when you consider that dBase III Plus enables you to have ten files open at once, with up to a million records in each file and up to 128 fields in each record. And all fully relational.

If you're new to database software, don't worry.

There's a built-in 'Assistant' program which enables beginners to run dBase III Plus without using a programming language. And an Applications Generator which actually builds a range of applications for you.

(More experienced users can use the generator to produce sections of complex programs very quickly.)

Whatever you want from a database,

dBase III Plus will help you achieve it quickly and easily.

You can find out more from our free Sampler Disk or Information Pack.

What you won't find is gobbledeygook.

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Minimum hardware for dBase III Plus: RapidFile Framework II Multitask Advantage, IBM PC or compatible 384K RAM MS DOS version 2.1 and above. Trademarks: IBM PC International Business Machines Corp. MS DOS Microsoft Corp.

ASHTON-TATE
TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT THE GOBBLEDYGOOK.

We are proud (sound drums and trumpets) to introduce the Compaq Portable III.

It is more powerful than an IBM AT, yet packs up small enough to stow away under an aircraft seat.

The photograph shows its actual size.

Never has such a small computer been so powerful. Never has such a powerful computer been so small.

(Stirring stuff, eh? Stick around, there's more!)

THE WORLD'S 1ST PORTABLE DESKTOP. ■

We made the Portable III to please people like you.

THE COMPAQ PORTABLE III.

You wanted a computer small enough to carry with you to meetings, or on business trips.

But you were, as our designers put it, 'unwilling to sacrifice full functionality and performance in favour of portability'.

Such a way with words. What they mean is you're not in the market for a machine that won't do the job.

So they've made a tiny machine that measures only 9.8" x 16" x 7.8" and weighs in at about 18 pounds.

But has an 80286 chip running at 12Mhz, up to 6.6 megabytes of working memory, fixed disk storage of 20 or 40 megabytes, a full size keyboard and complete compatibility with

industry hardware and software standards.

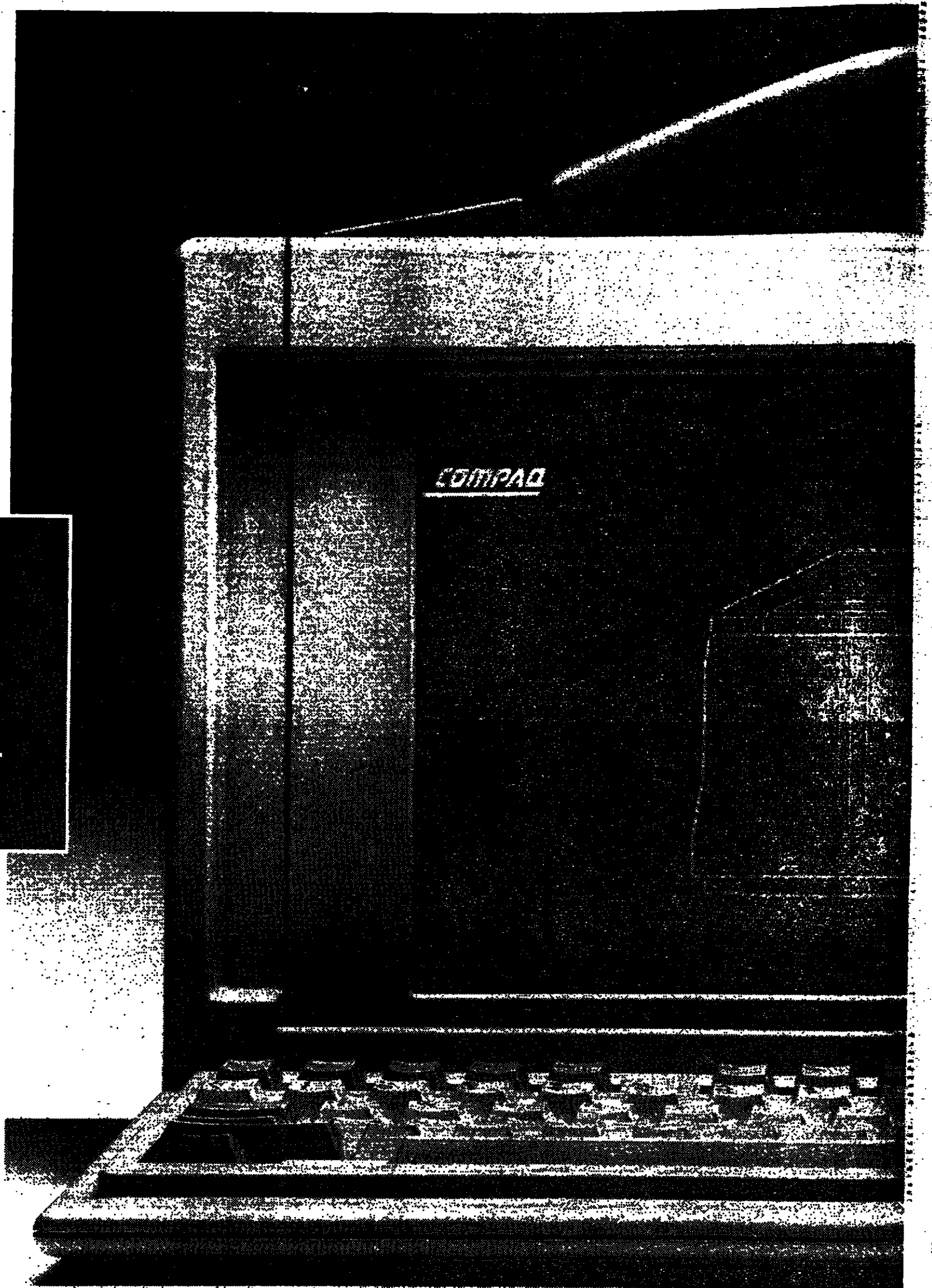
YIPPEE, NO BATTERIES. ■

The Portable III runs on mains power because:

1) Batteries just aren't up to powering an 80286 chip.

and sharp. It gives you a 640 x 400 line display for high resolution text and 640 x 240 (CGA compatible) for wonderful graphics.

And another thing. Because it's a traveller's micro, the Portable III has an Automatic



OPEN FOR BUSINESS. UP TO 6.6 MEGABYTES OF WORKING MEMORY AND A 20 OR 40 MEGABYTE HARD DISK.

2) Fixed disk drives need a lot of juice.

3) You can't run a gas plasma screen off batteries.

The 80286 chip and fixed disks we don't need to argue about.

We insist on a gas plasma screen because it's bright, clear

Line Selecting Feature. Simply plug it in anywhere in the world that has 110v or 220v and it will automatically adapt to the voltage.

FIXED DISKS. THIS'LL SHOCK YOU. ■

Fixed disks need an awful lot of protection in order to survive

in a portable machine.

Yet some people cram 10 megabyte disks into tiny lap-tops with no shock mounting to protect them. When those systems crash, they really CRA-A-A-A-A-A-SH.

Light though it is, our

look out for. Some companies are still fitting 'slow' disks in their latest products

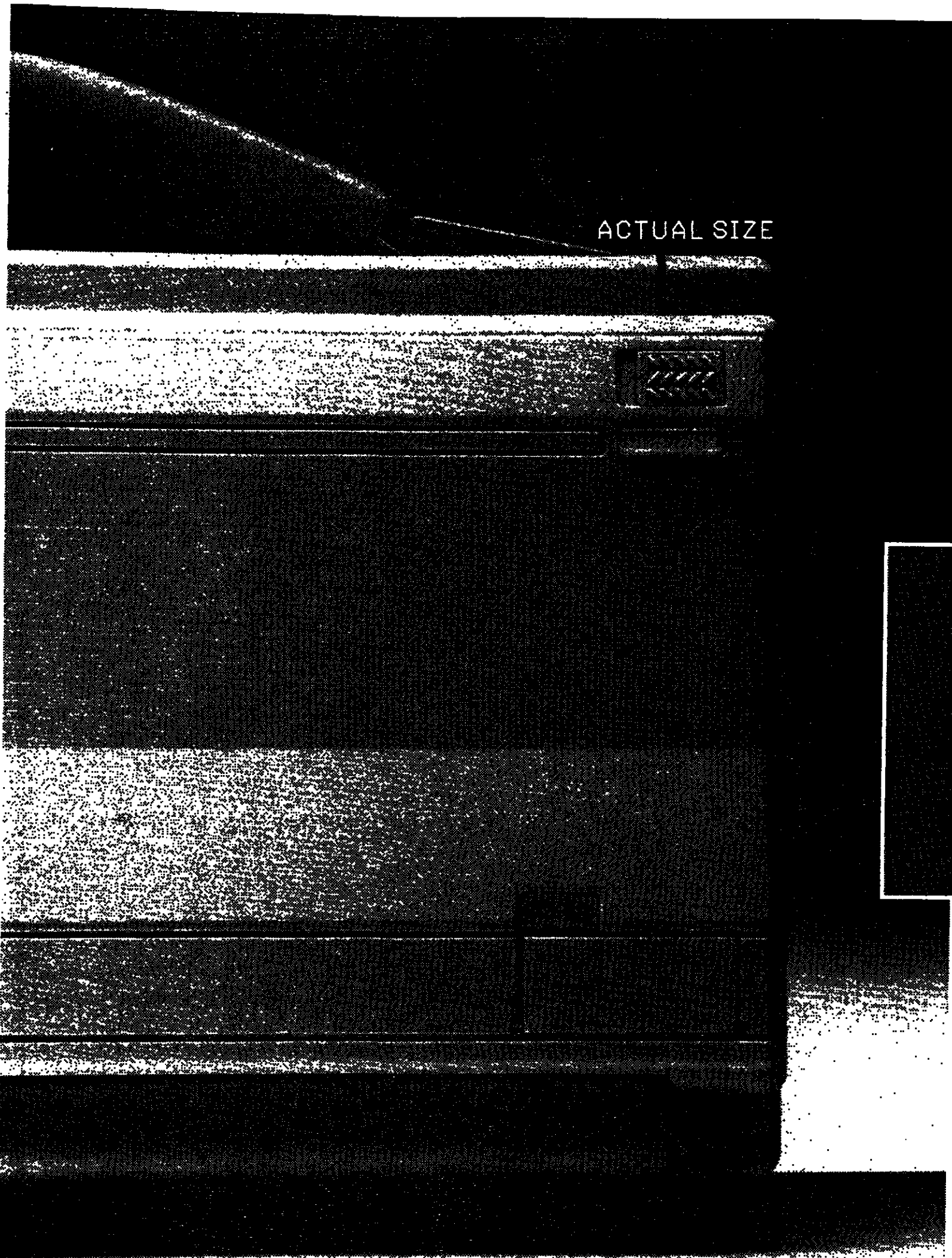
Ours are high performance disks with an average access time of less than thirty milliseconds.

That is very, very fast.

run at either 8Mhz or 12Mhz. At 12Mhz you'll numbercrunch approximately 50% faster than your colleague with the 8Mhz - IBM AT.

Power. 640 kilobytes RAM (Random Access Memory) standard is plenty for starters. You can always expand to 6.6 megabytes internally, using a special Memory Expansion Board. (You can even add a high performance 80287 co-processor to improve performance on floating point calculations.)

Floppies. Our 5.25" diskette drives take the standard 1.2 megabyte floppies you already use on Compaq or IBM PCs.



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AND WILL FIT UNDER YOUR AIRCRAFT SEAT.

machine has a tough plastic chassis, metal drive cages and rubber shock mounts.

Like all Compaq Computers it is built to withstand the rigours of true portability

You don't have to handle it with kid gloves.

There's one more thing to

THREATENING LITTLE DWARVES.

Well, your fingers haven't shrunk just because you're using a tiny computer, so why should the keyboard?

With sausages like yours, you need a full sized keyboard and numeric pad.

Speed. Our 80286 chip can

Modem. You can stash one inside the Portable III, enabling you to while away long nights in lonely hotel rooms playing 550 point Adventure with threatening little dwarves.

THE END OF THE ADVERT.

Okay, that's it.

This may seem like a strange and abrupt way to end an advert but for two things:

1) We've already gone on long enough.

2) The idea is to leave you gasping for more information so you'll visit one of our dealers.

Nice talking to you.

COMPAQ
PORTABLE III

WE'LL NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE YOU.

Amstrad 'fed up' with PC rumours

By Robert Matthews

Amstrad finally lost patience last week over persistent rumours about allegedly dangerous faults with its PC 1512, launched last September.

The company issued a writ against the BBC following a report in the corporation's newspaper *Ariel* that the computer has been banned by British Aerospace and "at least one university" on safety grounds.

Amstrad secured two letters from BAE and Southampton University, which the company believed was the university in question, both of which accepted that the PC 1512 met recognized safety standards.

The BBC subsequently apologised unreservedly for the story, printed an apology in *Ariel* and paid Amstrad's legal costs, saying that the routine tests it had carried out on the computer were "mistaken". In its letter to Amstrad, the BBC said that new tests showed that the computer "does not represent a safety hazard".

Rumours about the safety of the computer first appeared towards the end of February, but no action was taken initially because, according to a company spokesman: "We first thought the rumours so ludicrous that there was no need for action".

But Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, said last week that his company was now "fed up" with the rumours, and was considering further legal action against a number of other publications.

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'Given the widespread copying of our products, you would expect us to act to protect our own investment'

IBM unveils its new clone-resistant models

"Compete to win" is the exhortation to staff on the IBM company noticeboard at its manufacturing plant in Greenock, Scotland. And last week the company took a long-awaited competitive move with the announcement of its new personal computer range — the Personal System 2 — designed to help restore sliding profits and market share in the PC business.

Four new models were announced, including one using Intel's powerful 32-bit chip, with IBM claiming they would prove difficult to copy by the manufacturers of PC clones that have waged such fierce and successful competition in the PC market.

THE WEEK

By Matthew May

The models feature a new computer architecture and operating system giving much better graphics, speed and the potential for much larger memory than the existing IBM personal computers.

"Given the widespread copying of our products you would expect us to act to protect our own investment, and you would not be disappointed," said Tony Cleaver, IBM's UK chief executive.

Competitors already disagree, however, arguing that despite special custom chips to

handle graphics and other functions there are no insurmountable problems to designing machines compatible with the new range (see below).

What the announcement should do is to give IBM some breathing space as competitors go back to the drawing-board trying to ensure that IBM will not be able to create a new standard for personal computing that leaves them behind.

For customers, there will be a considerable wait as only the basic model will be available by next month, with the others coming out between July and December.

The new operating system, OS/2, needed to take full advantage of the new computers will not be ready until next year. Developed jointly with Microsoft, it will allow the computers to use 25-times more computer memory and allow the computer screen to be divided into windows with multiple applications simultaneously visible. It will also work with IBM's current top-end models, the AT and XT286.

A reasonable range of new applications software will take even longer. In the meantime, the models will run existing software using a revised version of the current PC-DOS operating system.

IBM's concern over the cloning of its products has resulted in an early announcement for the new computers as a tactical



Tony Cleaver, chief executive of IBM (UK): "We have a right to ensure ideas are not handed on a plate to competitors"

The new computers look potentially

impressive but are not exceptionally cheap — by the time a monitor is added and VAT is included, the most basic model, using 3½-inch rather than the current PC's 5¼-inch discs, costs £1,500, with a printer extra.

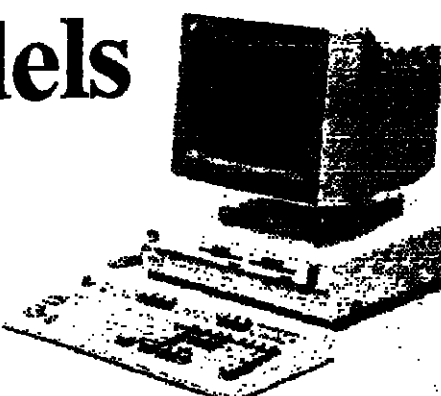
For the moment, at least, the cheapest end of the market is still in Amstrad's hands, though for the Amstrad chairman, Alan Sugar, the new IBM's may well affect his ability to sell into large organizations.

A total of eight configurations will be available with the top-of-the-range model, which works out at about £8,000, featuring a 1-megabit chip.

By using surface-mount technology, which enables far more components to be packed into a given space, the new models are said to be more compact, more reliable and quicker and cheaper to build, all of which will give IBM an edge on competitors.

Those computer companies which have brought out clones at prices not much different from those of IBM are likely to suffer most. Despite claims from competitors that IBM's computers would have little effect, the ferocity of some of the responses indicated concern.

"IBM's inability to deliver immediately much of what was announced last Thursday places the majority of the hardware in



IBM's new Personal System 2

the 'vapourware' category," said a statement from Compaq the following day. IBM created the personal computer market in 1981 with the launch of the first PC. The huge sales subsequently established it as the *de facto* standard for such machines. Even those who held out longest against making their PC's IBM compatible, such as Apple and Commodore, have recently made moves towards running IBM software.

Now IBM has challenged both competitors and customers again with a range that it is convinced will form a new standard for using personal computers.

Can either group afford to ignore the marketing muscle of the world's largest computer company?

A war on the power users

By Erik Sandberg-Diment

Over the past few years the path trod by personal computer users has forked into two distinct tracks.

The so-called power users gladly spend much of their time reworking complex software to squeeze just a little more speed, a little more power, out of their machines.

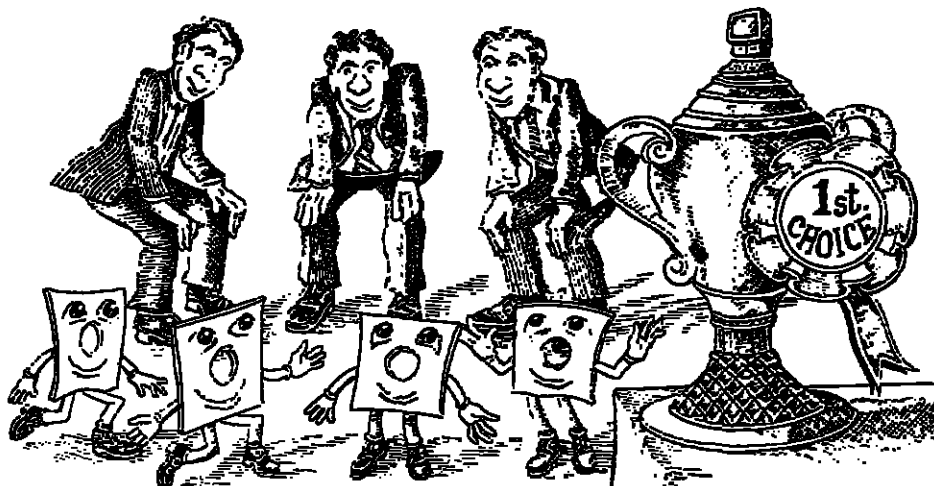
The second group more parallels the average commuter or shopper, who asks only that his vehicle delivers him to his destination with as little problems as possible.

Although the last group is by far the largest, the software industry has focused mostly on the power users. This once made a lot of sense.

First, it led to some truly amazing advances in the use of personal computers. Second, power users, seeing abuse software as a challenge to be conquered, could be counted on not only to put new programs to use but also to advertise them, simply by their constant chatter about their conquests and all the marvellous things the often recalcitrant software really could do.

Unfortunately, most regular users were left far behind by the *patois* of such self-taught virtuosos. Probably the most telling tale pertaining to the resistance of most of us to the mercurial complexities of personal computing concerns a company that decided to upgrade its database software after a year's use.

The man in charge of



personal computer procurement sent a memorandum around requesting that all copies of the older version be returned to be exchanged for the latest release. Some 30 per cent of the copies received from the staff were still in their original shrink-wrap.

A few software companies did wage war on the intimidating perplexities of computing. The best known of these is probably Software Publishing, producer of the deliberately easy-to-use PFS series.

But its initially booming sales eventually tapered off. Most people who had acclimatized themselves to the basics of running software still weren't moving up to industrial strength programs.

Those few were bought elsewhere; Software Publishing did not make what they were looking for. Recently, however, almost irresistibly priced IBM PC clones, such as the Amstrad, have been spawning a whole new following of first-time users in search of conquerable software.

One example is Software Publishing's £150 package First Choice. It is said to "integrate four applications in one program": word processing, spreadsheet analysis, file management and communications.

But, interestingly, it has chosen to bill itself conservatively as multipurpose rather than as integrated software. The point may be a fine one, but it reflects the way most people work with a computer, namely, one task at a time.

Even the manual is geared toward that assessment of people's working patterns; it devotes only eight pages to the transfer of files from one type of application to another.

Many a publisher would have termed such a program integrated simply for marketing hype, even though it does not incorporate windows or otherwise permit the user to work on two different applications at once.

Software Publishing chose a more low-key approach. Like its PFS predecessors, First Choice is an almost ideal beginner's tool. Both the software and the manual are about as unthreatening as they can be in the arcane personal computing industry.

You can choose any option by typing in the appropriate number, by indicating your selection with the cursor keys or by bouncing on it with a mouse if your computer is so equipped, in which case there are two on-screen cursors, one

for the mouse and one for keyboard control.

The word processing package is pretty much PFS-Write, down to the limitations on document length, which more or less confine the user to memos of 10 pages or so.

Several documents can be chained together by means of the Join command, but it is definitely not a program for book writers.

All the essential features are there: cut and paste, search and replace, automatic centering and reformatting, print enhancements such as boldface and underlining, and a 75,000-word dictionary.

The file manager is similar to PFS:File and the spreadsheet to PFS:Plan. The new spreadsheet's capabilities are limited compared with those of such mainstays as SuperCalc and Lotus 1-2-3 but can handle most of things beginners might ask of it. The one serious omission is an automatic save option. Far too many beginners do not develop the habit of saving data regularly, and an automatic feature could save them a lot of potential frustration.

But, over all, First Choice is probably a good choice for anyone aspiring to deal with a personal computer confidently from the very outset.

Microsoft's new computer operating system links with IBM

A sigh of relief from the lookalike operators

Most of the manufacturers of cloned personal computers were allowed a collective sigh of relief last Friday when Microsoft revealed details of the new computer operating system it has developed in conjunction with IBM for the new series of Personal System computers.

The new system, dubbed OS/2, will not have the proprietary elements that many in the industry feared it would and thus should run easily on existing AT-compatible computers and most of the PCs that have been developed by other manufacturers to use Intel's 386 processor chip.

In fact, it might even make life easier for clone manufacturers as the need for what are known as system calls to IBM's patented BIOS computer chip have been eliminated in the new operating system.

All such operations are now handled by the operating system itself — meaning that clone-makers of AT and 386 machines will not have to spend much time in the immediate future worrying about copying IBM's BIOS in its new model with Intel's 386 chip.

The operating system is not due in the market until the first quarter of 1988, and will appear first on IBM's new

Personal System computers. It will incorporate a version of Microsoft's Windows picture-oriented command system.

"OS/2 will be the platform on which the next 1,000 exciting personal computer

SOFTWARE

By Geoff Wheelwright

applications software products are built," claimed Microsoft chairman and co-founder, Bill Gates.

Although the OS/2 will not be delivered until early next year, Microsoft will soon begin selling a £2,500 "toolkit" for the new operating system, hoping applications software houses will have programs ready for use under OS/2 shortly after it starts delivery.

Ben Rosen, chairman of Compaq, even says the IBM computers are good news. Compaq took something of a gamble last autumn by releasing a PC based on the 386 processor before IBM had done so.

"Now that Microsoft has assured its users that the new operating system will work on 386 machines, such as those from Compaq, Zenith and Apricot, we can all breathe a sigh of relief," he said.

"People who have held back

from adopting the 386 will start to evaluate these machines."

In line with the IBM launch Microsoft has also announced a new operating system for current PC computers — MS-DOS 3.3. It will give better use of large hard discs systems, and faster performance on disc operation.

The company also claims that it is fully compatible with all previous versions and thus should run on all existing PC compatibles. Mr Gates says: "With this, the users will obtain improved performance from existing applications. We have every intention of continuing to support a succession of enhancements and improvements for MS-DOS."

The improvements to MS-DOS do not however include any ability to use it as a multi user system. Microsoft made it clear last week that it intends to use MS-DOS only as a single user operating system and will concentrate on Unix for multi user products after a recent agreement with AT&T.

Microsoft has also done a good deal of work to support features unique to IBM's new series of machines. These, however, are largely limited to items such as support for the higher screen resolutions with IBM's new graphics standards and a newly available mouse.

Will huge mainframe costs bring in the big profits?



ICL is preparing a new range of mainframes for 1990 — and hopes to top £1 billion

The workhouse machine in most large organizations is the mainframe computer. The fate of this device, which provides IBM with up to \$20 billion of its annual revenues, is of huge interest to users at one end and governments at the other.

According to John Gardner, ICL's director for mainframe systems, user demand for mainframe power is growing at the rate of 30 to 40 per cent a year.

To meet this demand ICL Europe's last mainframe producer, has already embarked on the development of its next range of mainframes, which will enter service around 1990, according to Mr Gardner.

Both ICL and IBM launched new mainframe ranges in 1985. For IBM this was in keeping with a tradition of mainframe launches about once every five years.

But ICL, now part of STC, was trying to break a cycle that had, in its case, lasted from 1974, almost 11 years. This long run on one machine neatly illustrates the major problem of the mainframe industry, which is cost. Neither ICL nor IBM will give a specific cost for a new mainframe launch, but United States commentators estimate that IBM spends anything between \$2 and \$4 billion getting out a new range.

ICL's Mr Gardner suggests a figure of around £200 mil-

lion for the sort of range that ICL produces in collaboration with Fujitsu of Japan.

But the hardware is only one part of the cost of mainframe manufacture. The other is the operating system. For its present range of machines, ICL built a new operating system called VME.

The former ICL chairman, Robb Wilmot, once suggested that this project may have cost ICL up to £150 million.

At the moment, ICL's revenues from mainframes are around £500 million, a figure that Mr Gardner hopes will rise to £1 billion by 1990. Even so, a £350 million

investment on the back of annual profits of £30 million is a very big risk, even for IBM.

Mr Gardner wryly notes that ICL will almost certainly have to launch yet another new range in 1995 to deliver Fifth Generation computing to users. IBM, however, appears to be hoping that the present 3090 series will carry it through to the mid-1990s.

Before it gets there, however, IBM will have to tackle a problem that ICL believes it has solved — range-wide operating system compatibility. ICL's operating sys-

tem runs programs written for the preceding range.

IBM, on the other hand, has two variants of its main operating system, VM-XA and MVS-XA running on the new series, with yet another operating system on its mid-range offering.

Ever since Burroughs merged with Sperry to become Unisys, most commentators have been convinced that it will have to drop one of its two mainframe ranges.

As users nervously wait to see whether this happens, they might note that Sperry already has a manufacturing arrangement with Oki of Japan.

And it is to Japan that mainframe manufacture is moving. Honeywell has conceded manufacture of much of its top end to NEC, while Amdahl now produces what amounts to a facsimile of the Fujitsu machine, from the Fujitsu factory at Numazu.

When all these readjustments are complete Japan is likely to emerge with no less than six mainframe manufacturing companies, while America will have just three — IBM, Unisys and, perhaps, DEC.

In the mid-1970s, the US had six mainframe producers — IBM, NCR, Honeywell, Burroughs, Sperry and Amdahl. Now it is Japan which has five in place — NEC, Mitsubishi, Fujitsu, Hitachi and Oki.

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IBM System/2, news in detail.

The launch of the Personal System/2 establishes a broad highway to the future for all users. IBM have announced to the world their PC strategy, but the implications may be unclear to you. Morse have written a guide that explains these systems in detail, the prices and the wider issues to consider now when buying a computer. Call for your free copy.

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MORSE COMPUTERS 78 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS. Telephone 01-831 0644. Telex 262546.

COMPUTER HORIZONS/3

Nation not speaking unto nation

By Peter Purton

A breakdown in talks between France and West Germany is threatening the creation of the European-wide digital mobile phone system for voice and computer data, planned for introduction in the 1990s.

At stake is a market for Europe's electronics manufacturers estimated at over £10 billion. At a meeting of Europe's postal administrations in Madeira in February, France and West Germany found themselves in a minority of two with their support for a more high tech proposal.

Now the West Germans have decided to support the majority decision but France is still holding out for a more advanced technical solution.

Meetings last week between the French and Germans designed to find a compromise ended without agreement and without a date being set for further discussions.

Though the system can go ahead without France the need for repeater stations is likely to limit England's ability to connect with the rest of Europe.

French reluctance to abandon the high tech proposal is understandable. Although with Germany it is said to have invested £15 million.

Late in 1985, British and Scandinavian companies began privately collaborating on a simpler, so-called multiple access (TDMA) system, now wanted by all but the French.

British government spending, in contrast to that of France and West Germany, was insignificant.

Apart from offering mobile phone users the opportunity to use their car and pocket phones even when abroad, a narrowband TDMA European system should also offer better use of radio frequency channels, and cheaper portable equipment. The alternative broadband, say its proponents, offers better potential compatibility with digital phone networks — and hence for transmitting computer data — and even cheaper infrastructure and terminal costs.

Critics pointed out that broadband relied on the development of a very advanced chip technology and that the overall development costs of such a system may not be justified by its commercial value.

Securing a late success in the fast lane

PEOPLE

By Ann Kent

Jennifer Benyon-Tinker does not take kindly to being forced into the slow lane. It happened once at the age of 16, when her parents vetoed her plans to read maths at university.

But she was determined not to be pushed aside for a more advanced technical solution.

So after 20 years in the service she threw up her job and joined a computer consultancy, F International.

That was nine years ago. Since then she has set up the company's scientific and engineering division, and become head of its northern division with 300 staff working for her.

"I have never been ambitious", she said. "I have never set down and said, I want to be this, or that."

In her teens she was strongly influenced by her maths teacher,

who even in the 1950s was singing the praises of computers. But her parents were disillusioned with the effects of further education on her two elder sisters, and insisted she left school at 16.

Jennifer took a job as a counter clerk in a post office, and soon badgered her boss into letting her go to the local tech to study maths. Later, she moved to Thurleigh, where the RAF was experimenting with different blind-landing techniques.

Computers had not yet arrived, so she found herself analysing results the hard way.

She married her first husband at 19, and moved to London, applying for a job at the Admiralty Research Establishment in Twickenham.

"The personnel officer said he didn't know what to do with me because I was a woman and an embarrassment." He put her in the only part of the establishment which employed women scientists, a maths group using a Pegasus computer.

"That was the start of computing for me. It was fantastic and I was ab-



Jennifer Benyon-Tinker:

"Restored self-esteem" — Jennifer Benyon-Tinker, who even in the 1950s was singing the praises of computers. But her parents were disillusioned with the effects of further education on her two elder sisters, and insisted she left school at 16.

system and software, and when someone senior to me left I got on with doing more of the systems software and with using an ICL 2900.

"Eventually I was technical manager for the whole of the computer setup, but I couldn't get substantive promotion. I applied and was turned down several times."

Her problem was her lack of a degree. All through her career she had been promoted to the next grade as soon as she was old enough, but the senior positions demanded a university background.

The crunch came when someone junior, and not particularly talented, was put up for promotion.

It is not easy to leave any job after 20 years. And she knew that two decades spent working for only one employer looked bad on a cv.

"I knew I couldn't sit around for 10 years waiting to see if they would promote me. I went job-hunting, and on the off-chance applied to F International. I didn't think they would be interested because of my scientific background."

But the company offered her

work as site manager for a project which involved writing warehousing systems for a large manufacturer.

"It was a tremendous relief to get a job after so many years in the civil service, and it also restored my self-esteem. That particular project involved using a scientific language, so it didn't seem strange or difficult. And the money was better as well."

Since she joined F International, the number of contractors on the panel has grown from 200 to 1,000, with a corresponding increase in managerial jobs. So promotion has not been a problem.

When the company decided it needed a scientific and engineering division, Mrs Benyon-Tinker applied.

She then found herself involved in cold selling for the first time in her life.

Mrs Benyon-Tinker is now a senior board member, speeding in her BMW from her Twickenham home, to offices in Edinburgh, Altrincham, Derby, Birmingham and the company HQ in Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire.

Leaping across canyons and grid

By Richard Sarson

STC has announced Fibrespan, a new kind of fibre optic cable for computer and telecommunications networks. Its novelty is that it can be strung along the pylons of the national grid and as it is non-metallic will be unaffected by the high voltages passing through the other cables on the pylon.

Its core is structured to give a tensile strength sufficient to span canyons up to 1km wide and survive wind speeds of 50 mph.

Usually, fibre-optic cable is buried, or runs along railway lines, but these methods are expensive in terms of installation and maintenance. The national grid is a ready-made network, on which to piggy-back a communications network.

STC's will first aim the new cable to the electricity utilities themselves, for transmitting their own voice and data communications. But they also hope to interest telecommunications operators like Mercury, and companies setting up value-added computer networks.

In developing countries, STC believes that Fibrespan provides shortcuts for putting in the backbone of a telecommunications network along an existing electricity supply network.

Whisky's export rival from the Glen

IBM's Greenock plant, near Glasgow is to manufacture the company's new range of personal computers announced last week for customers throughout Europe and the Middle East.

It is yet another decision that is continuing an impressive series of achievements for central Scotland. Silicon Glen is one of the oldest and best known initiatives to try and emulate the success of California's Silicon Valley and Massachusetts Route 128 — high technology centres which have brought low unemployment and budget surpluses to their respective US states.

SCOTLAND

By Catherine Arnst

More than 300 electronics companies employ some 42,000 people in and around Glasgow, Edinburgh and five "new towns" built to attract industry. Computer-related exports from Scotland now exceed those of whisky, according to a survey by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry.

Silicon Glen's existence is generally credited to the zeal of the Scottish Development Agency, a government-funded but independently-operated entity established in 1975.

The SDA's objective, enshrined across the lobby of its Glasgow headquarters, is

"to build a strong economy and a better quality of life for Scotland".

By offering grants of land and money, establishing a service sector and ensuring high-quality educational facilities in the area, the agency aims to persuade overseas manufacturers of all types to establish facilities in Scotland.

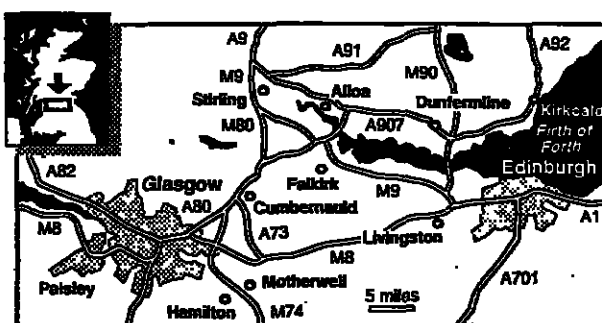
A second goal is to nurture Scottish-owned hi-tech companies in the hope that they will become the Apple Computer or Digital Equipment of the future.

In the first of these aims, the SDA's success is shown by the list of overseas corporations that have chosen to locate in Silicon Glen — top names such as IBM, Digital Equipment, Honeywell, Hewlett-Packard, Burroughs and Wang to name just a few.

But there are few native success stories in the Glen. The only major Scottish-owned electronics firm is the six year old Rodime, one of the world's largest manufacturers of disc drives for IBM and IBM-compatible mainframe computers.

According to a recent SDA study, only about 5 per cent of the revenues generated by Scottish-based electronics operations go to companies with Scottish headquarters, while 72 per cent are claimed by American-owned ventures.

"I'd have to say I am disappointed by the level of



spin-offs," said Howard Moody, who spearheads SDA's efforts to attract overseas companies to Scotland.

"Rodime is obviously in a class by itself. I doubt whether we could ever do a Compaq in this country."

But the recent announcement that Compaq, North America's fastest-growing computer company, will build its European manufacturing plant near Glasgow, despite stiff competition from development agencies in Ireland, France and West Germany, was a coup for the SDA.

Silicon Glen was also recently chosen as the site for new plants by Apollo Computer Corp, Bolt Beranek and Newman and Digital Equipment.

Digital's planned £20 million microchip facility will make it the only large foreign computer company in Britain that builds all its own components.

The Digital announcement

was not unanimously welcomed because it highlighted the lack of locally-purchased components in the products the overseas companies are building in Scotland.

The SDA estimates only 12 per cent of the content of electronic products comes from Scotland.

Jim Rigby, division controller of Hewlett Packard's Scottish plant, criticized the SDA for what he sees as an effort to attract overseas investment, even in areas where there is already local overcapacity.

"Our small companies don't get a chance to be big. The Government should legislate that perhaps 15 per cent of procurement should be for small British companies," he said.

Norman Tebbit, then British Trade and Industry Secretary, said at the time of the Digital Equipment announcement, "It is a pity that Britain could not expect to compete in every technology."

He added that although there may not be many Scottish spin-offs in Silicon Glen, many locally-owned companies had emerged to service and supply the foreign ones.

This was an equally important source of jobs, he said. "This well-developed infrastructure," he said, "is one reason why overseas firms are so willing to locate in Scotland."

No need to run out of memory: the 720-megabyte disk is on the way

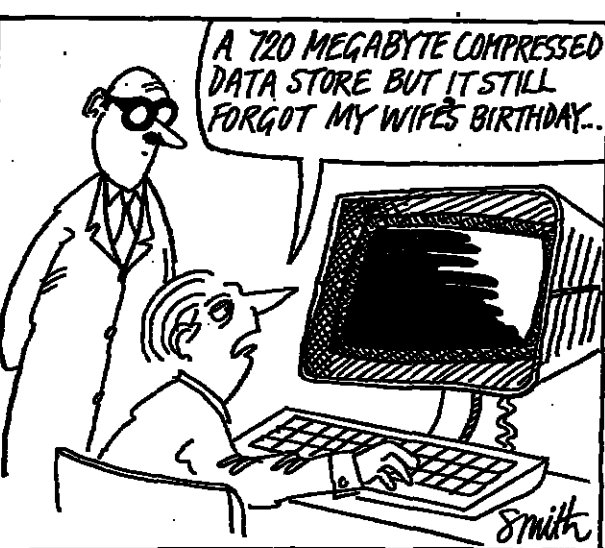
Memory, memory, is there ever enough of it? Only 10 years ago personal computer aficionados were jumping for joy at the possibility of adding 16K, 32K, or even 48K of memory to their computers' capabilities.

Today, most IBM PC and Macintosh users consider 512K of random access memory or RAM to be the minimum, and 360K floppy disks are giving way to 720K versions. Soon, even they won't satisfy many enthusiasts.

Recently, both Maxell and 3M separately announced the imminent availability of 2-megabyte or 2,000K floppies. The same expanding capacity is transforming hard disks. Whereas the 5-megabyte model was once something to brag about, 30-megabyte and 40-megabyte disks are now de rigueur, and one company is planning to bring out a 720-megabyte model.

And still users seem to run out of memory. One solution is to reduce the space taken up by electronic information. This approach, data compression, long used with mainframes, is now making its way to personal computers.

The idea is simple: throw out excess baggage wherever possible. A simplified example in written English would



be the elimination of all the articles in a sentence. But data compression permits far greater space-saving.

With personal computers, this is made possible with the 8-bit ASCII code, the American Standard Code for Information Interchange.

Digital computers deal with strictly two states. Either the electrical current is on (a plus sign) or it is off (a minus sign). These states are represented as symbols by the digits 1 and 0.

Each digit in an electronic

"word" is known as a bit. Thus the string 01010101 is composed of eight bits.

Most personal computers still use such 8-bit words, and 2 to the power 8 or 256 different combinations of 0s and 1s are possible.

The ASCII code, then, can use 8-bit computer words to represent 256 different things such as letters, numbers, mathematical symbols, and formatting features.

Not all the 256 ASCII codes are needed for every applica-

tion, and a data compression program can therefore create its own coding scheme using, say, four or maybe five bits instead of eight to represent each symbol needed.

The amount of compression possible depends on the particular coding scheme used, which depends in turn on the particular data storage procedure employed and the type of data being compressed.

One program compresses only Lotus 1-2-3 and compatible spreadsheet files. The dominant content of such files is just 10 separate symbols needing representation — the numerals 0 through 9, and the mere squeezing of each from the eight digits required by ASCII to, say, four can give an immediate space saving of half for those 10 symbols.

Other, even more arcane tricks mean that a compressed spreadsheet may well occupy only 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the space taken up by its original.

Another program, claim its writers, will give databases a compression of 75 per cent, or 40 per cent for text files and spreadsheets.

Whether the trade-off in increased time and complexity is worth it depends on the user's applications and their familiarity with computers.

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To apply for any of these positions please send a copy of your CV to the Computer Services Manager, News International Plc, P.O. Box 481, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

Systems men in top five per cent

Systems analysts and specialist software jobs are among the top five job categories for middle managers' pay, according to the latest salary survey from Reward Regional Surveys. Average pay for senior systems analysts is now £14,684 and for specialist software people £14,101, says the report. Senior systems analysts also came in for the best pay increases in computing of 9.5 per cent compared to an average pay increase for managers in all industries of 6.3 per cent. But despite the skill shortage, DP managers, specialist software people and analysts and programmers all received a less than average increase.

Quick off mark

Quick off the mark Lotus Development has announced it is to release 1-2-3 and other programs tailored to the new OS/2 operating system for the new IBM personal computers. It is also to develop new products aimed at the improved graphics of the new range and at the same time confirmed existing versions of 1-2-3 on three and a half inch discs are compatible with the new machines.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

Market man

Kaspar Cassani, head of IBM in Europe, is to move to IBM headquarters in the US to become a vice president in charge of world marketing with responsibility for the information systems group. The move comes at a time of hefty reorganization as IBM attempts to deal with declining profits. Michael Armstrong, Mr Cassani's current deputy takes over IBM in Europe.

Electronic shops

Barclays plans to launch electronic shopping with its Connect debit card are causing anger among retailers. The Retailers' Trade Association, the Retail Consortium, has asked the Office of Fair Trading to investigate whether Barclays is acting anti-competitively. Under the scheme, which will debit customers' accounts automatically, retailers will have to pay the same 2 per cent commission to Barclays as on a Visa credit card. Barclays has said that any retailer who accepts Visa should also accept Connect.

Caxton print-out

Caxton Software has announced a £200 software package for IBM PCs and compatibles which will allow offices a cheap way of handling accounting for many companies. Called the Desktop Accountant, it can handle 65,000 accounts with sales invoices, and purchase and sales ledgers. It includes individual password access to try and prevent unauthorised use. Unlike many accounting packages, says Caxton, Further information on 01 379 6502.

Charity's sake

A leading educational charity has accused the Government of failing to give young people the chance to gain computer experience in their spare time. Inter-Action, a charity which promotes the use of computers among young people, said only 15% of Britain's six million young people have access to a computer at youth clubs and centres. Ed Berman, the director, said that while the Government had spent £35 million providing computers for schools "most of this equipment remains unused in the evenings and during the holiday."

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Please quote appropriate reference number. Closing date: 21st April, 1987.



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Closing date: 21 April 1987.

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Applications by way of CV, quoting the names and addresses of two referees, to be submitted by 21 April 1987 to Mr Peter Catchpole, District General Manager, Mid-Downs Health Authority. Tel: Haywards Heath 457941 Ext 29. A candidates information package is also available.

For further information please contact: HAYWARDS STREET INTERNATIONAL c/o 17 Nottingham Street, London W1M 3RD. Telephone: 01-535 3038

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Chief Personnel & Training Officer,

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The Council is an equal opportunities employer: applications are invited from those with the necessary attributes, regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability or sex.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR 1989 INTERNATIONAL SKILL OLYMPICS

SKILL-UK is the body responsible for organising the United Kingdom's Team in the INTERNATIONAL SKILL OLYMPICS, a world competition for young people in some 35 trades spanning several major industries. The THIRTIETH INTERNATIONAL SKILL OLYMPICS will be held in Birmingham at the NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE in AUGUST 1989 and SKILL-UK is seeking a CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER for its 1989 Committee, which is the organising Committee responsible for the planning and management of the 1989 Competition.

The Council of SKILL-UK therefore invites applications for the post from persons with experience in conference planning and administration, preferably with qualifications and/or experience in public relations and display. The successful applicant will serve the 1989 Planning Committee and its voluntary assistants, will organise the Competition Office and lead a small team consisting of full and part-time assistants.

The appointment will be for a fixed period (terminating on December 31, 1989). A possible extension of contract will be considered early in 1990. An attractive financial package which will include provision of car, superannuation, etc., up to a maximum of £20,000 per annum is offered. The post will be based in London.

An application form and further details of the post can be obtained from the Director, SKILL-UK, 2 Beverley Gardens, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS8 3PR.

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For further details and an application form fill in the coupon and send it to the Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

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HORIZONS

A guide to career opportunities



The visual control room in the new Gatwick Airport tower

Guarded by unseen eyes

At first glance it looks like a room filled with people playing computer games. But those blips on the screen are real aircraft and the people are responsible for their safe passage through UK airspace.

At second glance it looks frighteningly complicated, but, "don't worry", said Iain McIntosh, chairman of the Air Traffic Control Officers' Selection Board, who was showing me round the London Air Traffic Control Centre at West Drayton, "even trained controllers feel like that at first in this centre."

To most people, air traffic control means the control towers of airports, but these are only part of the national system, dealing with traffic within a few miles' radius. UK airspace is divided into two Flight Information Regions, London and Scottish, with two area centres at the heart of these - West Drayton and Prestwick.

Within the two regions, control services are automatically provided to every aircraft entering controlled airspace, and to those in other areas on request.

The main provider of air traffic control services is National Air Traffic Services (NATS), a joint civil and military organization responsible to the Civil Aviation Authority and to the MOD, which staffs the two area centres and supplies services to British Airports Authority airports, some municipally owned airports (Manchester, Belfast, Birmingham and Cardiff), Highlands and Islands aerodromes and some MOD research airfields - notably Farnborough. Other airport owners employ their own controllers and may train them, but all must be in possession of CAA licences.

Licences are awarded on a system of ratings: aerodrome, approach, radar, area, and area radar. The first three qualify controllers for airport work, but CAA employees must obtain all five. "This means we expect our trainees to reach the highest standards," explained Mike McEvoy, personnel and training manager at the London Air Traffic Control Centre.

"We don't train people for certain categories only. We are a fully mobile

service and equip controllers to work in area control, small airfields or busy ones like Heathrow."

For controllers this can mean postings anywhere or changing from area control which receives aircraft from airports or adjacent countries' airspace, directs them safely through a sector and passes them to the next controller, to airport control where controllers may be in either approach control providing safe distancing for planes leaving the jurisdiction of area control or in aerodrome control in charge of landing, take off and ground vehicles.

A three man interview panel comes next - by this stage competition stands at around four applicants per place.

The CAA is looking for potential in technical competences. The RAF has slightly different criteria since controllers are primarily officers, warrant officers or senior NCOs, whose specialization is air traffic control. Officer candidates are selected at the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre at Biggin Hill.

CAA trainees enter as cadets and spend two years at the Service's college at Bournemouth, interspersed with periods at control centres and airports. It then takes up to three more years to qualify fully since each licence rating must be "validated" after suitable experience. As teamwork is so crucial, cadets also receive "personal development training" - and 15 hours flying training. After officer training, RAF controllers train at the Central Air Traffic Control School at RAF Shawbury near Shrewsbury, before completing further training at operational stations.

What makes a good controller? "The ability to assess priorities and to handle multiple inputs - listen, speak, think and write simultaneously," say both Wing Commander Brian Sidebottom of Shawbury and Iain McIntosh. Then - logic, a degree of unfatigability but also the capacity to get adrenalin going.

The RAF is constantly seeking ATC recruits to replace natural wastage. The CAA needs more than ever before. Booklets describing fully both work and training can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority, Personnel Services, Room T120, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TE and from RAF Careers Information Offices.

Wherever their posting, controllers work in teams, in charge of sectors - the size of the team depending on airspace and traffic requirements. Once in controlled airspace or having requested air traffic services, pilots must obey the sector controller, who must not however, influence those decisions which are the pilot's alone. "We'll describe the weather and traffic conditions. They decide whether to divert or enter our zone, but once in it, they follow instructions."

Immense camaraderie develops in teams. I asked whether controllers always work in the same ones. "Usually, and when a rapport has built up it takes major surgery to prise them apart," said Mike McEvoy. There is close cooperation too between sectors. "You don't hand a problem to the next sector - not unless the team knows about it and accepts it."

The WOLFSON FOUNDATION

seeks to appoint two people for the following important posts in its London office.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Applicants should preferably be qualified in medicine or in one of the medically-oriented life sciences and have a broad experience of their field. It is unlikely that the successful candidate will be over 55 years of age. Salary is by negotiation.

ARTS ADVISOR

(PART-TIME)

Working up to 3 days per week, the successful candidate will process applications and administer and monitor awards made by the Foundation in the Arts and Humanities. A general interest in the development of the Arts and Humanities is required. Although open to applicants of all ages, this position might suit a person recently retired from industry, education or one of the public services. Salary will be by negotiation.

Further particulars of both posts can be obtained from the Director Designate of the Foundation, Dr Alun Jones at the Wolfson Foundation, 18/22 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4DQ. Applications should reach Dr Jones by 29th April 1987.

Leicester Polytechnic

SCHOOL OF ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Principal Lecturers

2 POSTS
Salary £14,178 - £18,588

POST 1 Signal Processing Ref. No. 409.
Applications are invited for the above post from candidates with experience in the application of signal processing and/or image processing in engineering products and systems. Experience of advanced manufacturing systems, inspection systems and robotics applications will be appropriate. A good degree in an appropriate discipline is essential. The person appointed will develop research/consultancy in his specialist area and contribute to teaching programmes in MSc, BSc, and PGD Information Technology and BEng Electronic Engineering courses.

POST 2 Digital Communication Systems Ref. No. 422.
Applications are invited from candidates with experience in digital communications systems. A good degree and research and/or industrial experience is appropriate. The person appointed will contribute to research, consultancy and teaching programmes in MSc, BSc, and PGD BEng, Electronic Engineering courses.

Applications forms and further details for the above two posts are available from The Personnel Office, Leicester Polytechnic, P.O. Box 142, Leicester LE1 5RH. Tel: (0533) 551551 ext. 2382. Closing date 10th April 1987.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY: Applications are welcome from people regardless of their race, ethnic origin, religion, sex, marital status or disability; disabled applicants will be guaranteed an interview if suitably qualified and/or experienced and supported by a recognised agency e.g. a D.R.O.

LEGAL AID O & M OFFICER

£13,076 - £16,657 (under review)

Following a recent review of Legal Aid administration, a new post has been established with responsibility for organisation and methods. The person appointed will be based at our Head Office in Central London.

O & M and Information Technology are rapidly merging and, with the inevitable increase in the use of computers, the successful applicant will ideally be acquainted with the potential of new technology and its effect on users.

Our requirement is essentially for thoroughly trained and experienced O & M practitioners. Candidates should be able to demonstrate practical experience in form design for the general public and/or the development and maintenance of clerical work measurement systems. Duties will include the development of procedure manuals and forms, the provision of professional advice to the computer team and line managers, and conducting a rolling programme of inspections, making recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the office under review.

Legal Aid is a publicly funded organisation. Benefits include 25 days annual leave, contributory index-linked pension scheme, and an interest free season ticket loan scheme.

Application forms and further details are available from:

The Personnel Manager, Legal Aid, Newspaper House, 5th Floor, 8-16 Great New Street, London EC4A 3BN. Tel: 01-353 7411 extn. 216.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 24th April 1987.

GILLINGHAM REWARDS ACHIEVEMENT

Assistant Town Clerk

£13,653 - £14,862 + Performance Reward + Leased Car

As a result of a radical reorganisation of the Chief Executive's Department we are able to offer the challenge of this newly created post for an admitted solicitor, offering you the opportunity to develop your managerial skills. You will lead a committee section, participate in a review of the Committee Administration, and otherwise take part in the decision making process and the implementation of the Council's decisions. You will also be expected to undertake some court work.

Previous local government experience unnecessary.

- * Annual Performance Reward, maximum of 4 increments.
- * Leased Car.
- * Generous relocation package up to £3,000 + 100% removals + separation allowance.

For further details, please contact Caroline Adams, Personnel Officer, Municipal Buildings, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5LA. Tel: (0634) 577177 (direct line 24 hours) or 50021 ext. 240. Ref: G/87.

Closing date: 24th April 1987.

Gillingham
Borough Council

een eyes

Director

(1-36)-468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/7192.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

● ASSISTANT OVERSEAS POLICE ADVISER

THE CIVIL SERVICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Please quote ref: G/7170

**THE LANDSCAPE
INSTITUTE**
requires a
REGISTRAR

Mrs C Odell.
The British Sulphur Corporation Ltd.
Parnell House.
25 Wilton Road.
London SW1V 1NH

CHELTENHAM
Borough Council

For further information write to: THAMES VALLEY HOUSING SOCIETY LIMITED, 69 The Green, Twickenham TW2 5TU or telephone 01-755 2525. Closing date April 21st 1987

Applications are invited for the post of Manager of Security and Portering services with responsibility for the security, portering and car parking services of the University and for the maintenance of the grounds generally, including crime prevention measures and the detection of intruder alarm, access control and other systems.

To fulfill this role, a high level of management skills will be essential and previous experience of dealing with security problems would be an advantage.

The salary will be in the range £14,245 - £18,210 per annum.

Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 1st May, 1987, to: The Registrar, The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

For further information further particulars may be obtained.

Unif. Ref: R/398/3.

Commandant

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

An experienced and enthusiastic professional is required to manage the Swindon Technology Unit, which is the College resource for delivery of IT training to the local business and unemployed community and the marketing focus for open access activity.

If you feel that you have the skills and experience to meet this challenge, further details are available on receipt of SAE please, from: Clive Brain, Principal, Swindon College, Regent Circus, Swindon SN1 1PT, returnable within 14 days from date of advertisement.

The work is interesting and challenging and include: responsibility for the preparation of financial and management accounts and budgets; responsibility for the management of the Church's income and expenditure; the society's income totals some £1m p.a. and the offices are conveniently situated in Central London. The remuneration package includes a non-contributory pension scheme and good fringe benefits.

Applicants should be fully or partly qualified accountants, preferably with experience as necessary for the Financial Secretary. The successful candidate will require a minimum level 2 level required to

Donald Whittingham, Charity Appointments,
51 St Paul's Yard, Bishopsgate, London E1 6AQ

Systems Accountant
The Finance Division is about

For further details please contact Mike Griffiths, Deputy

**1 Springcroft Avenue,
London, N2 9JH**

**The Personnel Office,
The Royal College of
Surgeons**

College, Cambridge by Tuesday
12 May 1987
Further details are obtainable from

to firms, persons and community organisations seeking financial and other assistance from the Council.

obtained by either writing to the address below or by ringing Cleethorpes 696111 (Extension 207).
Closing date 17th April 1987.

The Royal Opera House is an Equal

**Jolliffe House, West Street,
Poole, Dorset BH15 1LA.**

**TO PLACE YOUR
PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
IN
THE TIMES
PLEASE TELEPHONE
01-481 1066
NOW.**

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Commercial Property

The merged firm of Coward Chance and Clifford-Turner will require additional lawyers to join the new combined property department which provides a comprehensive range of services to institutions, developed and local authorities.

The work, which is interesting and demanding, will expose successful candidates to the widest range of commercial property transactions.

Applications are invited from qualified lawyers with up to 5 years' experience who wish to broaden their knowledge and practical experience.

We provide a comprehensive, formal training programme for all lawyers, designed to support the Continuing Education Scheme and provide further education.

Working with us provides the opportunity to practise in a friendly, informal but busy environment.

If you would like to be considered, please write with detailed curriculum vitae to:

David Bows
Clifford-Turner
Blackfriars House
19 New Bridge Street
London EC4V 6BY.

or

William Thomas
Coward Chance
Royex House
Aldermanbury Square
London EC2V 7LD.

**CLIFFORD
-TURNER**

**COWARD
CHANCE**

Brussels, Hong Kong, London, New York, Paris, Singapore, United Arab Emirates
Associated offices: Amsterdam, Bahrain, Madrid, Saudi Arabia, Tokyo

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL RESEARCH

We are a fast-expanding multi-disciplinary City law firm, specialising in domestic and international company, corporate finance and commercial law.

We wish to recruit a director of legal research to be responsible for co-ordinating and developing in-house research and know-how. Responsibilities would include developing information services; organising in-house seminars on specific topics; editing booklets on specialised subjects; and assisting with the selection and training of articled clerks.

The suitable candidates will be a qualified barrister or solicitor with at least two years post-qualification academic experience, with a broad commercial law knowledge and a particular interest in specialist areas of corporate or commercial law. Previous publications would be an advantage but not essential.

If you would like the challenge of playing a significant part in the growth of a City law firm, with commensurate remuneration, please write, with a full CV, to:

Dr. Julian Lew • S J Berwin & Co •
236 Grays Inn Road • London WC1X 8HB
SJ Berwin & Co

CORPORATE FINANCE LAWYERS

As part of our programme of controlled expansion, we are looking for experienced lawyers to undertake a full range of high-quality domestic and international corporate finance work.

Applicants should have relevant legal expertise, a high level of personal skills and a sense of humour.

If you would like the challenge of playing a significant part in the growth of a City law firm, with commensurate remuneration, please write, with a full CV, to:

Philip Goldenberg • S J Berwin & Co •
236 Grays Inn Road • London WC1X 8HB
SJ Berwin & Co

D. J. FREEMAN & CO.

Solicitors

PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

We have a large department and the firm's growth continues. We act for major clients in the private and public sectors and deal with some of the most interesting and important property work in the country, for the most part development orientated.

We need more good lawyers to join us.

Our requirements are for lawyers with one to five years' good experience in the commercial property field. If you have the ability to combine professional skill with commercial awareness, we would like to talk to you.

If you believe that you deserve a better career or better career prospects, we will be glad to have an exploratory talk with you in the strictest confidence and without obligation.

Contact Godfrey Bruce-Radcliffe with details of your career to date.

D.J. Freeman & Co., 43 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NA. Telephone 01-583 4055

SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL

International Brief

A major industrial company wishes to appoint a commercial lawyer as its European Counsel. The right person will be a self-motivated problem solver providing solutions to issues as an integrated member of a number of business teams. He/she will have a knowledge of the law pertaining to a number of EEC countries as well as the United States and Britain. Skills in contract drafting and negotiation will be required and a knowledge of French or German would be an added advantage. For a person of sufficient seniority, salary will be excellent including a company car, relocation expenses and other benefits. The post may be located in the UK or in Brussels and considerable international travel is likely.

If you have eight or more years' post-qualified experience of commercial law in a high exposure environment and are ambitious for more responsibility, please contact Anita Doswell, Renter Simkin, 1 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0DD or telephone 01-626-2041 quoting reference C236.

REUTER SIMKIN

LONDON • LEEDS • WINCHESTER • BIRMINGHAM
RECRUITMENT AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Chislehurst (Bromley)

Stoneham Langton & Passmore seek young solicitor to assist in the Conveyancing Department dealing mainly with residential conveyancing. Friendly office, good prospects.

Apply Mrs J. Meisner,
28 High Street,
Chislehurst
Kent, BR7 5AS.
Tel. No. 01 468 7025

ASA LAW LOCUMS

Urgently required in all areas.

Tel: 01 404 4741

Conveyancing and Litigation, full-time or part-time, long or short bookings. Fees (and accommodation costs) negotiable.

GLASTONBURY SOMERSET

Assistant solicitor required to undertake mainly litigation in pleasant and attractive market town. This is one of the firm's 5 offices in Somerset and Bristol. Experienced or newly qualified applicants considered. C.V. please to Harris & Harris, 72 High Street, Glastonbury, BA6 9DZ.

SOLICITOR What Brighton Could Offer You

Salary up to £14,862
plus generous
relocation package

- Excellent career experience in a busy office operating in the atmosphere of a competitive international conference centre.
- A senior appointment within a team dealing with a wide range of matters including housing, health, licensing and litigation.
- Involvement in committees and project groups.
- An opportunity to contribute to the progress of a town of great character with Regency architecture and more restaurants, shops, sports and entertainment facilities than just about anywhere else.
- Relocation expenses of up to £3,750 plus removals, lodging, travel costs and mortgage assistance.

Local government experience would help but recent qualifiers who think they can make the grade are welcome to apply.

Please telephone Brighton (0273) 29801 Ext. 414 for further details and an application form to be returned to the Borough Secretary, Town Hall, Brighton BN1 1JA.

Brighton Council is committed to equal opportunities and is currently implementing an Equal Opportunity Policy.

— Borough of —
Brighton
Brighton is a nuclear free zone.

PARTNERSHIP APPOINTMENT

CONTENTIOUS PROPERTY LAWYER

The Commercial Property Department of Lawrence Graham has already established a reputation for reliable and creative advice.

This has contributed to the continuing expansion of the department and a growing client list including leading Institutions, Pension Funds and Property Developers as well as Overseas Corporations.

We now wish to strengthen the Contentious Property side of our business by the appointment of an outstandingly able Solicitor at Partnership Level. The ideal applicant is likely to be in the 35-45 year age range and may well have a client following - although this is not essential.

He or she will be responsible for further developing a specialist team to deal with all aspects of Property Litigation, Planning matters and Arbitrations for major clients.

This is a rare opportunity to join an ambitious fast-growing practice based in a completely re-furnished Headquarters building in the Strand. As would be expected, the remuneration package will reflect the importance of this appointment.

Please reply in complete confidence to Paul Kinsella marking your envelope Private & Confidential.



LAWRENCE GRAHAM 190 STRAND LONDON WC2R 1JN 01-579 0000

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Commercial Property

Our Commercial Property Group continues to expand and we recognise that our lawyers play an essential role in making us one of the most active City Law firms in the field. We have a wide and varied practice focusing on institutional investment and property development in the UK and abroad.

Newly qualified and experienced solicitors are important to our future and we are looking for people to work as part of a team to help us meet the ever-increasing demand for legal services.

It is a friendly and exciting environment in which to work and we believe we can give you the support and training you need to develop your career. We also offer excellent professional and financial rewards.

We would be pleased to receive your CV and if you would like more information about us please contact:

Mrs Alizoun Dickinson,
Linklaters & Paines,
Barrington House,
59-67 Gresham Street,
London EC2V 7JA.

Tel: 01-606 7080 Ext. 4797.



LINKLATERS & PAINES

Buy-out and Venture Capital

Clifford-Turner's management buy-out and venture capital group needs an experienced company and commercial lawyer.

The group handles management and leveraged buy-outs of U.K. private and listed companies and the U.K. and overseas divisions of international companies, and other venture capital investment and realisations, including USM and full listings. We advise lead investors and syndicates as well as entrepreneurs and management teams.

The announced merger between Coward Chance and Clifford-Turner on 1st May 1987 will increase opportunities for the group.

Many of the deals we help to structure are substantial and involve novel legal and commercial elements with a large international content. The job requires a creative approach and good negotiating skills.

Applicants should have significant experience of the relevant elements of the company law as well as an appreciation of taxation and financial considerations. The most useful ability, is to be an effective member of a commercial negotiating team.

The group can demonstrate good career progression in recent years for outstanding lawyers, and a friendly, team-spirit atmosphere. A substantial salary and other benefits are offered.

Please write enclosing full curriculum vitae to

Derham C. O'Neill
Clifford-Turner
Blackfriars House
19 New Bridge Street
London EC4V 6BY.

**CLIFFORD
-TURNER**

**COWARD
CHANCE**

Brussels, Hong Kong, London, New York, Paris, Singapore, United Arab Emirates
Associated offices: Amsterdam, Bahrain, Madrid, Saudi Arabia, Tokyo

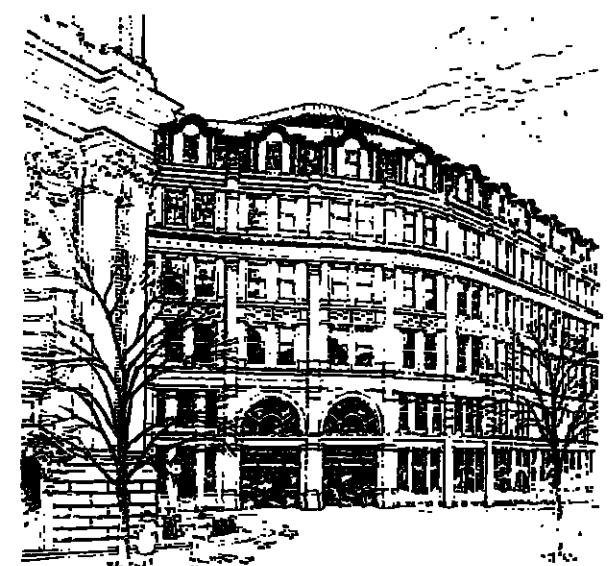
Stephenson Harwood

One, St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH

Stephenson Harwood have just moved to newly built offices opposite the steps of St Paul's. We now have the advantage, rare in the City today, of having enough space to enable all our departments to expand within one building - with very civilized working conditions and all the latest technology.

There are a number of fields in which we particularly need more lawyers. These are:-

- Banking and asset finance including aircraft finance
- Commercial litigation and arbitration
- Real estate, property development and commercial leasing
- Intellectual property
- Construction law
- Ship finance and sale and purchase
- Charterparties and Bills of Lading



We attract interesting work - much of it with an international element - from interesting clients of all kinds. The people we need are people with practical ability combined with a talent for communication.

If you work - or would like to work - in any of the fields mentioned above, come and see the new offices and meet the people concerned. Contact Susan Jeras, our personnel manager, and she will make the arrangements.

Ring 01-329 4422 or, if you prefer, write to Susan Jeras at Stephenson Harwood, One St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8SH.

Sound principles at work

Barristers and Solicitors

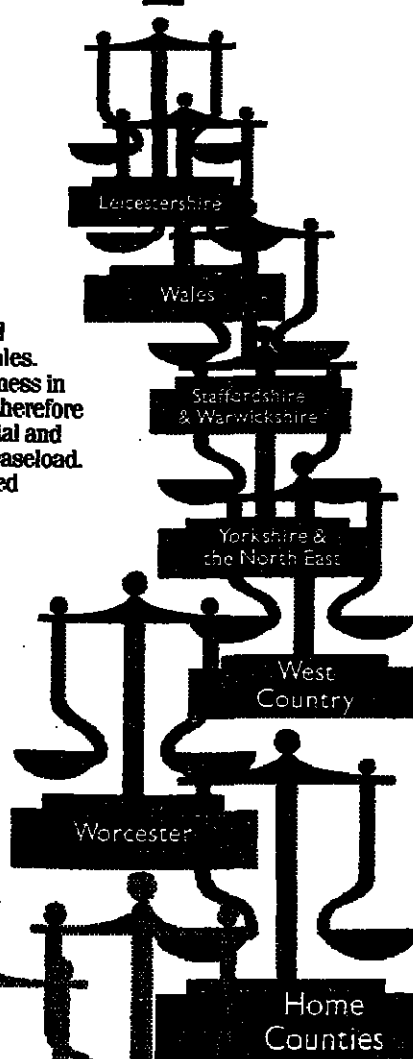
The Crown Prosecution Service which is seeking to recruit Barristers and Solicitors, operates from some 31 areas located throughout England and Wales. The service has been established to achieve greater consistency and fairness in criminal proceedings; increasing the responsibilities of the Prosecutor has therefore been necessary and new recruits to the service are selected for their potential and judgment, their maturity and motivation to handle a challenging and heavy caseload. A formidable training programme is already underway for newly appointed lawyers. The sheer variety of casework is demanding, but it does offer you a valuable career and arm you with a wealth of experience.

Current vacancies for Senior Crown Prosecutors exist in London and for Crown Prosecutors in London and throughout England and Wales. Preferences for initial locations are welcomed.

Starting salaries will be in the range £11,130-£15,900 (Crown Prosecutors) or £14,315-£19,465 (Senior Crown Prosecutors) depending on experience. London weighting up to an additional £1465 is also paid where appropriate and there are opportunities for promotion within the service. Salaries and London Weighting are under review.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 1 May 1987) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G(5)942.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer



CPS

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT SENIOR ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

£15,627-£16,776

An experienced Solicitor is required for this key third-tier post. You will be responsible for directing the work of a section dealing with Common Law and Licensing and will carry out a wide range of duties including advocacy before Magistrates and County Courts, tribunals and public inquiries, as well as attending and advising committees. Knowledge of Town Planning, Highway, and Public Health Law, and High Court practice (including building contract disputes) is essential.

For an informal discussion about the post, contact David Campbell (Tel. 0202 292366, Ext. 2164). Application and Job Description are available from the Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Bournemouth, telephone 0202 292366 Ext. 2136, to whom completed applications should be returned by Friday 24th April 1987.



**BOURNEMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Meredith Scott

BANKING to c.£50,000
Solicitor, at least 3 years admitted sought by well-known EC2 practice to act for international clients. Excellent partnership prospects.

PENSIONS to c.£40,000
Reputable EC2 practice seeks Lawyer with preferably minimum 3 years practical experience.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY to c.£27,000
Prestigious WC2 firm seeks solicitor, ideally 1-4 years qualified.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY to c.£22,000
Medium sized Central London firm seeks solicitor, ideally newly to 3 years qualified with science degree.

SHIPPING to c.£20,000
Substantial EC2 firm seeks solicitor, probably newly to 2 years admitted to specialise in litigious marine law.

Meredith Scott Recruitment
17 Fleet Street, London EC4V 1AA
01-583 0955 or 01-541 3897 (before office hours)

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

LAWYERS FOR HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Office of Baker & McKenzie which is amongst the largest firms of lawyers in Hong Kong has vacancies for experienced solicitors in the following areas of practice.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCE

We are looking for lawyers with preferably not less than 4 years' post-qualification experience to work in our Commercial and Finance Departments. The commercial positions involve public company matters, acquisitions, mergers, joint ventures and a wide range of general assignments, usually with an international flavour. The finance positions include secured and unsecured lending, leasing and project finance.

LITIGATION

The office comprises lawyers qualified in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Germany and the United States and has a substantial litigation practice which continues to expand.

This well established practice is looking for competent and motivated lawyers who will have had at least 4 years' post qualified experience in commercial litigation, preferably in an established London practice.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to handle major commercial litigation in Hong Kong's existing and demanding environment, and to assist in the development of the practice.

All positions carry a very high level of remuneration in this tax favourable jurisdiction, and there are good prospects for partnership within the firm.

Applications in writing with full C.V. should be sent to
Blair Wallace, Baker & McKenzie, Aldwych House, Aldwych,
London WC2B 4JP.

BAKER & MCKENZIE

NORFOLK: A NEW KIND OF CHALLENGE

COMBINING COMMITMENT AND COMMERCE

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

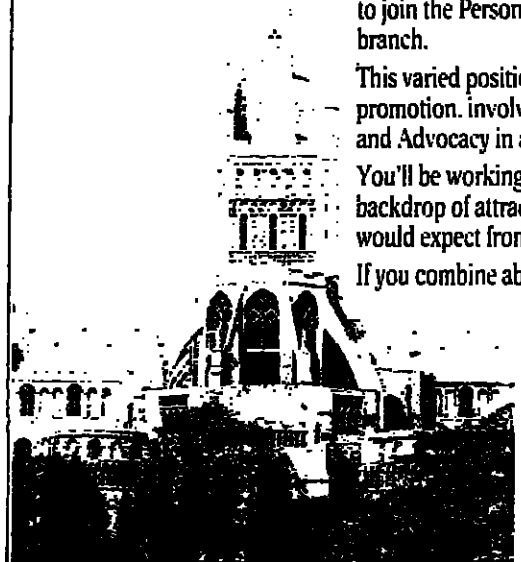
In line with our commitment to services within the Community, we currently have a challenging opportunity for an Assistant Solicitor to join the Personal Services section of the County Solicitor's branch.

This varied position, arising as a result of our policy of internal promotion, involves a wide range of work, including committees and Advocacy in a busy office of a major local authority.

You'll be working in a thriving but traditional city set against a backdrop of attractive rural countryside: the amenities are all you would expect from an area with an expanding commercial base.

If you combine ability with ambition, are about to be admitted or currently work in the public sector, private practice or elsewhere, you'll find that Norfolk will provide the career challenge you seek.

Further particulars and application forms are available from the County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH. Tel. (0603) 011122.



ESSEX MAGISTRATE'S COURTS COMMITTEE

Chelmsford, Dengie & Maldon and Witham
Petty Sessions Divisions

Senior Court Clerk

CC/PA 10-14 £12,039 - £13,545

This post is based at the Witham Office, but you will also serve the Courts at Maldon and Southminster. The postholder will have responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the two offices at Witham and Maldon.

The post will carry a high degree of responsibility as it is the most senior post based in the Divisions of Dengie & Maldon and Witham. Consequently, the duties attached to the post will include a greater administrative content than is usually associated with a Court Clerk post.

Applicants must be qualified under the Justices' Clerks' (Qualification of Assistants) Rules 1979; be able to take all types of Court without supervision together with the oversight of pre and post court functions and have experience in all other aspects of the work of a Justices' Clerks' office.

Commencing salary within the grade of the post will depend upon experience. Applicants for this post must have a minimum of two years post-qualifying experience as a Court Clerk.

Relocation expenses up to £3,000 are payable in approved cases. A fully valid driving licence is essential and an appropriate mileage allowance will be paid.

Application form and further details from Clerk of the Committee, (Personnel Section) County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. Tel: Chelmsford (0245) 267222 extension 2017.

Closing date 27 April 1987.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

LONDON LEGAL EXECUTIVES are pleased to announce that they have changed their name to:-

Chancery Legal Appointments

and their new address and telephone number is:-

93/94 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1DT Tel: 01-404 5571

For the most attractive and rewarding career opportunities in London and the Provinces, contact the specialists:-

Chancery Legal Appointments
93/94 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1DT
Tel. 01-404 5571



STEIN · SWEDE · JAY & BIBRING

SOLICITORS

YOUNG SOLICITORS GOING PLACES

Formed less than 30 months ago we have grown to a firm of 10 partners handling a wide range of high quality commercial work, often with an international element.

We require talented and ambitious newly qualified solicitors to assist in each of our 3 main departments.

Our offices are extremely attractive and well equipped, the work is interesting the approach professional and the atmosphere is friendly and informal.

The prospects with this rapidly growing firm are excellent.

Please contact the following in writing at:-

111 Park Street,
London, W1Y 3PB.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL
PETER JAY

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING
MICHAEL BIBRING

LITIGATION
RICHARD GERSTEIN

Securities Lawyer

£ Neg

Merrill Lynch's continued expansion into Europe means we are seeking a U.K. qualified solicitor/barrister with two or three years' post-qualification experience.

The successful candidate will join a professional group of lawyers responsible for the legal requirements, including compliance, of a diversified financial services company in its many jurisdictions. The successful candidate will be self-motivated and capable of working under the minimum of supervision.

A certain amount of travel will be involved and, at the same time, the candidate will be involved in legal advice on English law (including litigation) in relation to the activities of the London based headquarters in addition to liaising with counsel in other countries and jurisdictions.

An attractive compensation package will be offered, rewarding performance and ability, coupled with non-contributory pension, free medical and life insurance.

Please write enclosing C.V. of your background and career to date to: Barbara Jenkins, Recruitment Manager, Merrill Lynch Europe Ltd., 27 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1AQ.



Merrill Lynch

Tax Barrister

Financial Planning - City

Due to the expansion of our financial planning services an excellent opportunity exists for a Barrister to join our financial planning team.

The work is varied and interesting. The successful applicant will be responsible for research and advice on personal tax matters involving income tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax planning including the preparation of financial planning reports for clients.

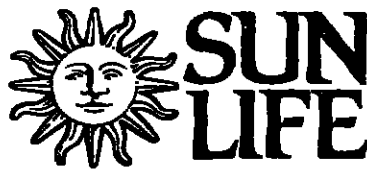
To be considered it is necessary to have a legal professional qualification with at least two years' taxation experience. However, it is not necessary to have worked before in the Life Assurance industry.

Good analytical skills are vital.

The environment is highly commercial. This is reflected in the salary and benefits package (which includes mortgage subsidy and non-contributory pension scheme).

Furthermore this is an excellent opportunity to extend taxation skills in a varied, but highly demanding industry.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to: Mr G L Vohra, Financial Planning Department, Sun Life Assurance, 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU.



NABARRO NATHANSON

Are you bored with local searches or trust accounts and feel that your true role in life is as a corporate lawyer?

Nabarro Nathanson, the largest commercial practice outside the City, is looking for young enthusiastic lawyers for its rapidly expanding corporate department.

We have vacancies for experienced corporate solicitors but we are also willing to give an opportunity for a change of course to young, qualified lawyers with no previous commercial experience. If you are practising in a field of law which does not meet your original expectations, and feel that you have the commercial approach to practice which would make you a suitable candidate for a corporate department dealing with the full range of company/commercial matters, then we would be interested in seeing you.

If you would like to join us at our new offices at Stratton Street, please write with a cv to Christopher Boddington, Nabarro Nathanson, 50 Stratton Street, London W1X 5FL.



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LAWYERS

Turner Kenneth Brown's Commercial Property Department seeks lawyers 2 years + qualified with experience in:-

Construction Law Planning General Commercial Property

The work of the Department is varied but comprises mainly acquisition, development and funding transactions. We need enthusiastic young lawyers able to handle demanding and challenging work.

We occupy modern offices in the City designed to create for us an efficient and friendly environment, making full use of new technology.

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Please write, in confidence, for an application form to Jim Cowan, HQ Personnel Manager, Northumbrian Water, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3PX.



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Application Forms from the County Secretary and Solicitor, County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN. Tel. 02214 3641 ext. 3007.

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To apply, please write to: Kit Nash, Assistant Personnel Manager, Forward Trust Group Limited, Forward Trust House, 12 Colthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1QZ.

We are an equal opportunities employer, and applications are open to all people regardless of sex or ethnic origin.



FORWARD TRUST GROUP
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By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

other, Ex parte Lee
An unauthenticated photocopy of an authenticated copy of a warrant did not satisfy the requirements of section 13 of the Extradition Act, 1870 which requires a *bona fide* for the authentication of foreign warrants, depositions and statements on oath.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Mann) so held on April 6 in allowing an application for a grant of habeas corpus by David Lee, also known as Kam Fuk Li.

Scholfield loses out

in thrilling finishes

By Brian Beel

Philip Schofield was out of luck at the North Cornwall point-to-point on the 11th, but he finished second and a third from five riders.

Many spectators believed that his Golden Link had got up on the line to beat Plain Henry in the Open, while Charlie Crosswell's half-length success in the Flippin Coady over Schofield's Sparan Mariner in the adjacent looked over-optimistic.

Wednesday, in its second session, proving to be a more popular course and the

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